



The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 25, 2020

Re: Support for Bills on Energy Innovation

Dear Chairwoman:

On behalf of Envoy Public Labs, I am writing to urge you to place legislation addressing energy and climate technology and innovation on the House's fall legislative calendar. Federal leadership on energy issues is urgently needed; while the current COVID-19 pandemic is a top priority, climate change and air pollution remain major long-term challenges. Indeed, severe weather from climate change, including heat waves in the western US and storms in the Midwest, are exacerbating the health and economic situation of many already suffering from the pandemic. Climate mitigation and energy technologies provide an ideal economic support pathway as the nation looks to recover from COVID-19. Bipartisan consensus exists on a suite of bills, and I ask you to afford them due consideration amidst this crisis.

To date, EPL has conducted interviews on behalf of the Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear, an initiative of the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear energy, with 67 key energy stakeholders in targeted Western US states. Participants of the *National Strategy for Establishing Relationships with Utilities and End/Users* have included 25 utilities, 26 NGOs, 9 state legislators, and 7 regulatory authorities and other state offices. Participants' service areas, jurisdictions, constituencies, and memberships compose a nearly contiguous network that spans from Lake Superior, to the Puget Sound and the Sonoran Desert. The key findings from this outreach have been presented broadly to the advanced nuclear industry, the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology staff, and DOE-NE officials. Additional outreach to over 30 major industrial energy consumers has also been completed for GAIN.

Based on analysis of these interviews, EPL has concluded that energy end users, such as utility and industrial companies, are critically uninformed regarding advanced nuclear technologies and their potential role in decarbonizing the US economy. This condition will severely hamper the ability of key decision makers to plan for and evaluate technologies that hold immense potential to decarbonize the US economy - and the need for a solution is urgent. Irreversible decisions regarding the nation's energy infrastructure will undoubtedly be made by the end of this decade, and I urge federal support for American companies developing these transformative and strategically critical technologies. Several bills enjoy broad support on both sides of the aisle of the House that would provide needed support from the federal government to the nascent US advanced nuclear industry as a viable and, indeed, vital part of a future,



decarbonized energy mix. I would highlight three bills in particular that could help reassert US leadership in nuclear energy globally, and further aid commercial deployment of advanced nuclear technology domestically:

H.R. 4091, the ARPA-E Reauthorization Act.

ARPA-E has proven capable of providing critical and innovative leadership and is an important, credible voice on issues related to energy. In particular, EPL sees ARPA-E's work on the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle as vital to finding an ultimate solution to the nuclear waste issue that has plagued the industry since its inception and threatens to prevent broad deployment of advanced nuclear technologies.

H.R. 6097, the Nuclear Energy Research and Development Act.

The broad set of nuclear energy RD&D this act authorizes provides critical support to fledgling advanced reactor developers who are working to bring their designs to the commercial market. EPL especially supports authorization of an advanced reactor demonstration program as an important step in developing energy end user confidence in advanced nuclear technologies

H.R. 4230, the Clean Industrial Technology Act (CITA).

EPL's engagement with industrial energy end users suggests strongly that major US industrial companies are just beginning to consider their transition to mid-century, decarbonized operations. These companies are generally unaware of advancements in nuclear energy technology, particularly with regard to new, smaller-scale designs and advanced designs that offer quality, high-temperature process heat. CITA provides a technology-neutral pathway that could facilitate discussion on advanced nuclear technology's role in decarbonizing carbon-intensive industrial processes.

EPL supports an all-of-the-above decarbonization solution, and encourages the House to consider all sources of carbon-free power. Importantly, I urge you to make time to consider such legislation this fall. These bills are sensible, prudent measures that will further the US's commitment to leading on both nuclear energy and climate change. On behalf of EPL, I urge you to strongly consider allowing time for discussion of these bills and continue support for a technology that will be critical in forming the basis of the US's response to a climate crisis that will persist long past the current health crisis our nation faces.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Taylor Stevenson". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Taylor Stevenson
CEO
Envoy Public Labs