

May 5, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
House Committee on Science, Space and Technology
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Science, Space and Technology
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Randy Weber
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy
House Committee on Science, Space and Technology
510 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Johnson, and Chairman Weber,

We, the faculty of UC Berkeley's Nuclear Engineering Department, are writing to thank you for sponsoring and introducing the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act, HR4084. This bill will enable the United States to take concrete steps to support nuclear energy to ensure we achieve three strategic objectives that are foundational to our nation's energy system: energy security, economic competitiveness, and environmental responsibility.

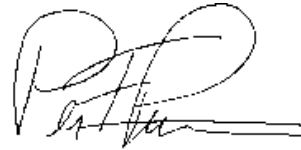
We find the bill to be well aligned with the mission our research and development programs prioritize in the development of advanced nuclear technologies with improved safety, security, and economics and with reduced waste generation. In particular, the updated mission and sense of congress specifically support or enable research led by or done in collaboration with universities. Further, this bill helps allow the private sector to more easily and strategically take advantage of the valuable resources at the national laboratories. We view improving private-public cooperation and knowledge transfer as essential to the expansion of privately-led nuclear innovation. These objectives incentivize private investment and will remove barriers to proper market function over time. Further, private nuclear companies that will benefit from these opportunities do and will employ many of our graduates. In fact, several of our graduates already work at the start-up companies TerraPower and NuScale. We therefore feel this bill is important for job creation and the continued development of advanced nuclear energy.

The Nuclear Engineering Department faculty at UC Berkeley appreciates your consideration for the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act. If you have any questions about the legislation or would like to cosponsor, please contact Dr. Aaron Goldner in Senator Whitehouse's office at 202-224-2921.

Sincerely,



Rachel Slaybaugh
Assistant Professor
Department of Nuclear Engineering



Per F. Peterson
Professor and Executive Associate Dean
Department of Nuclear Engineering



Digby Macdonald
Professor in Residence
Department of Nuclear Engineering



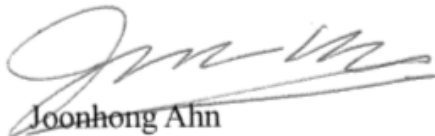
Ehud Greenspan
Professor of the Graduate School
Department of Nuclear Engineering



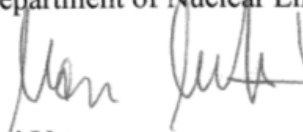
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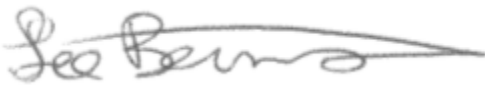
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