



February 24, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
House Science, Space & Technology Committee
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member
House Science, Space & Technology Committee
394 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Randy Weber
Chairman, Energy Subcommittee
House Science, Space & Technology Committee
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

Tri Alpha Energy is a fusion energy science research company headquartered in Foothill Ranch, California. Our purpose is to deliver world-changing clean fusion energy for economical, commercial power generation as fast as possible. Tri Alpha started as a research project at the University of California-Irvine in 1990. Today we have 150 employees, over 350 patents issued or pending, and are conducting experiments on a state of the art plasma generation device.

We are writing to express support for your bill H.R. 4084, the *Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act*. Global market and environmental conditions demand that new sources of clean, baseload electricity be developed. New nuclear designs hold tremendous promise as a sustainable and cost-competitive power solution, but the United States government must provide a favorable policy environment for the necessary technology developments to take place.

H.R. 4084 would make several improvements at the Department of Energy to help move advanced nuclear technology concepts, including fusion, out of the laboratory and toward commercialization. The Nuclear Innovation Center, for example, would enable shorter development and permitting timelines by allowing private companies to work hand-in-hand with federal researchers and regulators on design validation.

We commend you and your staff for recognizing the enormous positive potential that advanced nuclear, including fusion, holds in the United States and for offering thoughtful, bipartisan legislation to move the industry forward. We hope that H.R. 4084 will be offered for floor consideration soon and offer our support to help move the bill to final passage. We also look forward to working with your Committee on other fusion energy issues in the future. Please contact me with any questions at rbarth@trialphaenergy.com.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Barth, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President, Government Relations
Tri Alpha Energy