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

Dear Chairman Smith,

X-energy, LLC is a small energy company developing an inherently safe advanced nuclear reactor. We have pledged to create American jobs and help rebuild American leadership in nuclear energy innovation. I would like to commend the House Science Committee, and the Energy Subcommittee, in particular, for their leadership on promoting research and development toward commercial applications of advanced nuclear energy reactors with your bill, HR4084, the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act. This is the beginning of elevating the critical importance of advanced nuclear energy technology to our Nation's 21st century energy solutions. There are many challenging steps along the way as we develop and deploy these new technologies, on the technical side, on the financial/investment side and in the licensing/regulatory regime. But, if we, as a Nation, are going to achieve the multiple benefits of advanced nuclear reactors, we must identify what needs to be done to bring these designs to fruition as rapidly as possible.

This is a compelling time to influence the future of energy solutions in this country and in fact, the world. As we look to the rest of this century, the United States clearly has the opportunity to demonstrate leadership in energy development, generation and implementation of new, clean, and reliable energy both domestically and globally. Nuclear energy must be a part of this equation, and the development of the next generation non-light water reactors are essential to accomplishing this. China has just committed to 40 new nuclear power plants between 2016 and 2020. In fact, world-wide 60 new reactors are under construction in 19 countries – several of which are moving forward with non-LWR technology. The United States has been the “gold standard” for safety of nuclear reactors. If the United States is going to continue to lead, we must step up to the plate on accelerating the development and licensing of the next generation of safer, more economical, more proliferation-resistant nuclear reactors. Failure to do so, will relinquish this critical leadership role to China and Russia.

At X-energy, we believe that HR4084 this is a critical and strategic first step to achieving commercial operation of these advanced nuclear energy plants by the 2030 timeframe. We are excited that this bill has been introduced and would like to add our support to your efforts. We look forward to continuing to work with you to move it through Congress. Please feel free to contact us to answer any questions, or if you would like any additional information.

Respectfully,

Harlan Bowers
President, X-energy, LLC