PennState

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The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
House Science Subcommittee on Science,
Space and Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member
House Science Subcommittee on Science,
Space and Technology
394 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Randy Weber
Chairman
House Science Subcommittee on Energy
2319 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

June 28, 2016

Dear Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Johnson and Chairman Weber:

I am writing to express my support for H.R.4084, the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act of 2015. The continued availability of nuclear energy for the production of electricity in this country is critical to achieving the goals of producing reliable, safe electricity while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Nuclear power is currently the only major non-fossil fuel energy source that can provide a significant contribution to reliable electricity production and which, further, has plenty of room to expand.

While the U.S. has led much of the early development of nuclear technology, for several reasons we are currently in severe danger of losing that leadership to the rest of the world. Currently operating nuclear power plants in the U.S. are facing severe economic pressures, in part because their significant contributions to environmental protection in reducing greenhouse gas emissions are not recognized in law and subsidies. This creates a serious danger that we will lose our nuclear capability, in the form of the infrastructure, supply chains, manufacturers, engineers and scientists who will create the next generation of nuclear power and maintain current capability.

Increased federal investment and support is essential to developing advanced light water technology as well as the new generation of advanced reactor concepts that will operate more safely and economically. These technologies are critical to the ability of the U.S. to maintain a reliable, diversified, sustainable, and environmentally responsible energy portfolio. The proposed Act will help companies in having access to the full range of government knowledge and facilities, while accelerating the development of state- of-the-art technology and promote the commercialization of such.

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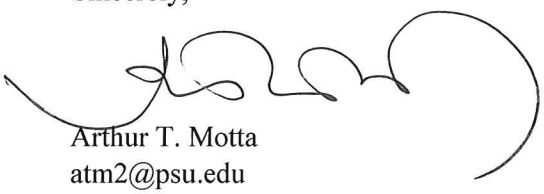
We have many students at Penn State who are joining the major and who will be the future of the nuclear power enterprise in this country in the decades to come. It is our responsibility to create the conditions that will allow the efforts of this future generation to come to fruition.

Sincerely,



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