



AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR CAPITAL FORMATION

January 25, 2016

The Honorable Randy Weber  
510 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
2468 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Representative Weber, Representative Johnson and Chairman Smith:

The American Council for Capital Formation (ACCF) applauds the introduction of HR 4084, the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act. For four decades, the ACCF has advocated sound tax, energy, environmental, trade, and economic policies that encourage saving and investment to foster economic growth. Innovation in our energy industry is critical to our productivity and growth but, like so many other sectors, our federal regulatory framework has created barriers to innovation due to cumbersome red tape, litigation, permitting delays, and compliance costs.

Undeniably, the U.S. nuclear sector is in trouble with the near term closure of a number of reactors increasingly inevitable, particularly in the face of the massive subsidies awarded to renewables under the Clean Power Plan (CPP). To help promote the competitiveness of nuclear in the face of these market distortions, the federal government needs to focus more of its nuclear research and development programs on improving the thermal efficiency of reactors, which would increase revenue streams for owners and operators.

HR 4084 resolves to prioritize investments in R&D infrastructure that would attract top minds from around the world to conduct cutting edge experiments on materials science, chemistry, and related fields that could yield new products and technical papers otherwise not possible. It would also accelerate capabilities for proprietary R&D in America rather than overseas or R&D that simply could otherwise not happen. This legislation would also send a clear signal to the market to bolster investor confidence that the United States is and will be a friendly venue to develop new nuclear technology, including materials, fuels, reactor designs and more.

On behalf of the American Council for Capital Formation, I thank you again for your invaluable leadership in addressing the challenges faced by our commercial nuclear sector. Your leadership in resolving this issue is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Banks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

George David Banks  
Executive Vice President  
American Council for Capital Formation