



February 10, 2016

The Honorable Randy Weber
Chairman, Energy Subcommittee
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

I am writing on behalf of the Clean Air Task Force to express support for H.R. 4084, the “Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act.”

Clean Air Task Force (CATF) is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to catalyzing the development and deployment of low emission energy technologies through research and analysis, public advocacy leadership, and partnership with the private sector.

CATF sees opportunities to reshape the Department of Energy in ways that could significantly improve its effectiveness. (CATF and the Energy Innovation Reform Project published a joint paper in April 2013, “Putting Energy Innovation First: Recommendations to Refocus, Reform, and Restructure the U.S. Department of Energy.”) H.R. 4084 would take several important steps towards improving DOE by helping to establish better integration between foundational and applied research at DOE and by expanding the mechanisms and opportunities available for private sector collaboration with National Labs.

Climate change is an enormous challenge. To have the greatest chance of success, CATF’s position is that we will likely need all of the low-carbon energy technologies available,

including nuclear power. Therefore, Clean Air Task Force strongly supports Section 7 “National Reactor Innovation Center” of H.R. 4084 as an important step in both assessing the mechanisms available to partner with private innovators on advanced nuclear technologies and in advancing the commercialization of those technologies.

H.R. 4084 has the potential to improve the effectiveness of DOE and to accelerate the advancement of important technologies for addressing climate change. CATF supports this important piece of legislation and we appreciate your leadership in moving this important work forward.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 617-733-5458 or afinan@catf.us.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley E. Finan', with a horizontal line through it.

Ashley E. Finan, Ph.D.
Project Director, Advanced Energy Systems
The Clean Air Task Force