



June 20, 2018

The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman,
The Honorable Bobby Rush, Ranking Member
House Energy & Commerce
Subcommittee on Energy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

On behalf of ClearPath Action and the U.S. Nuclear Industry Council, we are writing to thank you for holding the May 22, 2018 hearing on legislation addressing development, regulation and competitiveness of advanced nuclear energy technologies. Both of our organizations appreciated the opportunity to provide testimony at the hearing regarding the ongoing development of advanced nuclear energy in the United States. We also applaud the Subcommittee's efforts to advance the discussion draft, authored by Rep. Bill Flores, to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish and carry out a program to support the availability of high-assay low enriched uranium (HA-LEU).

Over the last several years, designs have emerged that not only bring with them the opportunity for more cost-effective, deployable and safety-enhanced reactors, but they also position the United States to regain a pre-eminent position in nuclear exports. As attested to at the hearing, one critical element that almost all of these designs share is the need for access to higher enrichments of uranium or HA-LEU. Unfortunately, the U.S. does not presently enrich uranium at this level and while the Department of Energy has initiated efforts to identify opportunities to meet these needs, the attention of Congress to this matter is a critical and timely need.

In support of the Committee's efforts, we offer the following recommendations that we made in a joint February 20, 2018 report we issued on HA-LEU:¹

1. Congress should direct the Secretary of Energy to establish an adequate "strategic reserve" of higher assay LEU at an enrichment of 19.75% in order to serve the needs of the advanced reactor community to support near term need for lead test assemblies. Optimally, the reserve should contain at least 6MT by 2020 and at least an additional 30MT by 2025.

¹ <https://assets.clearpath.org/2018/02/34e01aa863572d11e2a89b592dcbfb56-NIC-Clearpath->

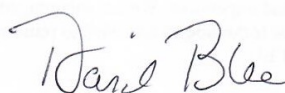
2. Congress should direct the Secretary of Energy to develop a fast neutron test facility with a design requirement that utilizes higher assay LEU to serve as a catalyst for the early production of this material.
3. Congress should direct the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study of various alternatives to procure domestic uranium, enriched up to 5% to use as the feedstock for the down blending of HEU to 19.75%.
4. In addition to the strategy included in recommendation 1, Congress could direct the Secretary of Energy to facilitate procurement of HA-LEU in the domestic or international commercial market.

We welcome the House Energy and Commerce Committee's focus on facilitating the deployment of promising advanced nuclear technologies and appreciate your consideration of these recommendations to support the availability of high-assay low enriched uranium for these reactors.

With best wishes,



Rich Powell
Executive Director
ClearPath



David Blee
President and CEO
U.S. Nuclear Industry Council