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December 13, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Neal,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the discussion draft of the GREEN Act. We appreciate your interest in hearing from stakeholders, and we share your desire to create good-paying energy industry jobs while reducing carbon emissions.

The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)¹ believes that policies developed to achieve clean energy goals must not exclude any source of carbon-free energy. Accordingly, as the Committee works to craft a final bill, we urge you to include the provisions of the bipartisan Nuclear Powers America Act (H.R. 2314).

Energy analysts have demonstrated that a decarbonized electric grid will require significant investment in three classes of carbon-free energy resource: “fuel saving” resources like wind turbines and solar panels; “fast burst” resources like batteries and demand response that can respond to short-term fluctuations on the grid; and “firm low-carbon” generation like nuclear energy, geothermal energy, or fossil fuels with carbon capture to balance the system over the

¹ The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) is responsible for establishing unified policy on behalf of its members relating to matters affecting the nuclear energy industry, including the regulatory aspects of generic operational and technical issues. NEI’s members include entities licensed to operate commercial nuclear power plants in the United States, nuclear plant designers, major architect and engineering firms, fuel cycle facilities, nuclear materials licensees, and other organizations involved in the nuclear energy industry.

longer-term.² To ensure all three classes of resource are available in the quantities and on the timelines required, Congress should seek to establish a policy framework that stimulates demand for the full spectrum of carbon-free energy technologies, including nuclear energy.³

Nuclear energy is by far America's largest source of firm carbon-free electricity, generating more than half of our carbon-free electricity and nearly 20 percent of U.S. electricity overall. In addition, nuclear power plants are among the safest industrial workplaces in the nation and pay wages significantly above prevailing local wages; according to a 2018 study by Oxford Economics, "in 2017, the nuclear power generation industry employed nearly 48,400 workers in the US paying an average salary of \$136,600. This exceeded average regional wages across the country and placed nuclear power as the highest paying industry in the electric power generation sector."⁴

Despite the value of nuclear energy in meeting the climate and employment goals of the GREEN Act, there are no incentives in the discussion draft for retaining America's 96 nuclear power reactors or for creating incentives for new nuclear build. This is noteworthy at a time when nuclear energy in the U.S. is facing grave economic challenges. Operating in markets that do not value their carbon-free attribute, eight nuclear reactors have closed since 2013, removing over 50 million megawatt-hours of clean electricity. Looking forward, an additional seven units have been announced for closure, which would remove an additional 60 million megawatt-hours of carbon free generation. To stem this tide and preserve the firm, carbon-free generation nuclear energy provides, we urge you to embrace the bipartisan Nuclear Powers America Act, which would allow a tax credit for investments in nuclear power plants that commit to remaining in operation long-term and thereby help minimize carbon emissions from electricity production.

² "The Role of Firm Low-Carbon Electricity Resources in Deep Decarbonization of Power Generation," *Joule*, November 21, 2018; [https://www.cell.com/joule/pdf/S2542-4351\(18\)30386-6.pdf](https://www.cell.com/joule/pdf/S2542-4351(18)30386-6.pdf)

³ "Evaluating the causes of cost reduction in photovoltaic modules," *Energy Policy*, December 2018; <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301421518305196?via%3Dihub>

⁴ "Nuclear Power Pays: Assessing the Trends in Electric Power Generation Employment and Wages," *Oxford Economics*, April 2019; <https://www.oxfordeconomics.com/recent-releases/nuclear-power-pays-assessing-the-trends-in-electric-power-generation-employment-and-wages>

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Looking to the future, there are dozens of advanced reactor and nuclear technology developers in the U.S. working on new and innovative reactor designs ranging in size from a few megawatts to 1,000+ megawatts. As a result, the nuclear power of the future will enable more than just electricity production at large central facilities. It will help provide carbon free, resilient and reliable energy to remote locations that are currently using diesel; it will provide energy products and services like high-temperature heat and hydrogen that will help decarbonize our industrial and transportation sectors; and it will enable the replacement of retiring coal facilities utilizing the existing infrastructure and in doing so preserve jobs in the local community.

We are pleased to note the strong bipartisan support for next-generation nuclear technology development and will continue to engage with the relevant committees in Congress to advance research, development and demonstration programs as well as the necessary incentives to accelerate deployment of a next generation of nuclear carbon-free energy technologies.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the GREEN Act discussion draft. We look forward to working with the Committee and your staff to ensure the final GREEN Act proposal is supportive of nuclear energy and the entire range of carbon-free energy resources.

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria Korsnick".

Maria Korsnick

c: The Honorable Kevin Brady, Ranking Member
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means, U.S. House of Representatives