



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
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WORKERS®**

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LONNIE R. STEPHENSON
International President

KENNETH W. COOPER
International
Secretary-Treasurer

October 4, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Energy & Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Shimkus
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Environment
& the Economy
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Energy & Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Tonko
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Environment
& the Economy
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Pallone, Subcommittee Chairman
Shimkus and Subcommittee Ranking Member Tonko:

On behalf of the 750,000 active members and retirees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I write to urge your support of H.R. 3053, the "Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017," bipartisan legislation which would designate Yucca Mountain, Nevada, as the site for our nation's spent nuclear fuel. After more than 30 years of study and delay, it is time for the government to finally fulfill its obligation to properly store this material.

In 1982, Congress enacted the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, calling for a permanent geologic repository for spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste. Yet 35 years later, used fuel sits idle in 121 communities across 39 states. The Nuclear Energy Institute says 3,330 metric tons of spent nuclear waste languishes in Florida alone, which was recently hit by the catastrophic Hurricane Irma. The NWPA established a 1998 deadline for the federal government to take ownership of the spent nuclear fuel. Since then, American taxpayers have paid more than \$40 billion for payments to nuclear utilities for disposal. This bill provides a glidepath to move the material into a centralized storage facility. Yucca Mountain has been thoroughly examined and has met or exceeded all environmental and scientific standards for storage.

Nuclear energy in America produces nearly 20 percent of our nation's electricity, emission-free. As the country moves toward increasing reliance on renewable energy, the need for nuclear, the country's only baseload carbon-free source, has become even greater. Members of the IBEW not only help produce nuclear energy at more than 60 facilities across the country, we and other members of the building trades were on the Yucca Mountain site before work was halted in



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2010 under the Obama administration. We are ready to get back to work to meet this important environmental challenge.

This law would enshrine the badly needed comprehensive nuclear waste management strategy the country has been seeking for decades. I respectfully request your support for this critical legislation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lonnie R. Stephenson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lonnie" being the most prominent.

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

LRS:lgd

Copy to All Members of the U.S. House Energy & Commerce Committee
All Members of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Environment & the Economy