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December 23, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Chairman, Committee on Finance  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Grassley, and Ranking Member Wyden,

As the Senate Finance Committee and Congress consider clean energy tax policies, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)<sup>1</sup> encourages you to adopt policies that are in keeping with NEI's Principles for Clean Energy Policies<sup>2</sup> and that will protect both our climate and good-paying jobs. To that end, I am writing to correct an oversight in a December 9 letter to you from twenty-two of your Senate colleagues,<sup>3</sup> and to urge you to support the bipartisan Nuclear Powers America Act (S. 1134).

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<sup>1</sup> 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 on 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.

<sup>2</sup> "NEI Principles for Clean Energy Policies," <https://www.nei.org/resources/reports-briefs/principles-clean-energy-policies>

<sup>3</sup> Letter available at: <https://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Clean%20Energy%20Tax%20Letter%202019.pdf>

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In the December 9 letter, your colleagues refer to recent analysis by the Rhodium Group, which found that extending and expanding tax credits through 2025 for zero-emitting electric generation could reduce up to 125 million tons of emissions, making up a quarter of our national commitment under the current Paris Climate Agreement targets.<sup>4</sup> What the letter failed to acknowledge is that the Rhodium Group analysis found 80 percent or more of the carbon emissions avoidance through 2025 would come from an investment tax credit designed to preserve the operation of our nation's 96 nuclear power reactors. These reactors are the source of more than half of our nation's carbon-free generation, and provide nearly all of America's firm, low-carbon generation, which is widely recognized as key to achieving an affordable, reliable, decarbonized electric grid.<sup>5</sup> Yet the letter from your colleagues did not recognize the importance of nuclear energy to reducing carbon emissions or include reference to S. 1134. That oversight should be corrected as clean energy tax policies are considered in Congress.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to ensure clean energy legislation is supportive of nuclear energy and the entire range of carbon-free energy resources.

Yours very sincerely,



Maria Korsnick

c: Signatories to the December 9 letter [Senators Edward J. Markey; Sheldon Whitehouse; Catherine Cortez Masto; Martin Heinrich; Cory A. Booker; Chris Van Hollen; Tom Udall; Dianne Feinstein; Brian Schatz; Christopher Murphy; Richard Blumenthal; Tina Smith; Benjamin L. Cardin; Amy Klobuchar; Patrick Leahy; Jack Reed; Mazie Hirono; Kirsten Gillibrand; Debbie Stabenow; Jacky Rosen; Gary C. Peters; Bernard Sanders]

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<sup>4</sup> Rhodium Group. Can Tax Credits Tackle Climate? September 26, 2019. <https://rhg.com/research/can-tax-credits-tackle-climate/>

<sup>5</sup> For example, see Sepulveda et al., "The Role of Firm Low-Carbon Electricity Resources in Deep Decarbonization of Power Generation," *Joule* 2, 2403–2420, November 21, 2018. Available at [https://www.cell.com/joule/pdf/S2542-4351\(18\)30386-6.pdf](https://www.cell.com/joule/pdf/S2542-4351(18)30386-6.pdf)