



Flake Champions Advanced Nuclear, Energy Storage Goals

His two bipartisan bills target federal applied research towards commercialization

WASHINGTON, June 29, 2017 -- Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) is leading two bipartisan efforts that hit at a major lapse in federal energy innovation: the lack of real and ambitious goals for applied research.

Flake and Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) have introduced S.1457, the [Advanced Nuclear Energy Technologies Act](#), which sets a goal by 2028 for demonstrating at least four new advanced reactor designs. These public-private partnerships will help pave the way for the commercialization of the next generation of nuclear power facilities which produce less waste, have state-of-the-art safety standards and are smaller, cheaper, and quicker to build.

A second bill, the [Energy Storage Goals and Demonstration Projects Act](#) (S. 1455) offered with Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), sets a goal of developing three commercially-viable energy storage solutions, by 2028. Advances in energy storage have the potential to transform U.S. electricity markets, but current grid-scale technologies are not nearly cheap or large enough to be widely deployed.

“These are exciting bills that go straight to the heart of what’s desperately needed in the federal energy innovation space,” ClearPath Executive Director Rich Powell said. “Applied research programs can result in some of the best returns for taxpayer dollars if those dollars are properly targeted.”

“American public-private research initiatives have yielded some of the biggest innovations of the past half-century, but many of the Energy Department’s programs still lack focus on commercialization,” ClearPath Policy Director Jeremy Harrell said. “These bipartisan initiatives will focus our nation’s world-renowned research and development network on what it does best - advancing breakthrough clean energy technologies.”

The bills would further bolster breakthroughs for two prominent advanced energy technologies that will make America’s energy supply cleaner, more reliable and cheaper. Nuclear has long been the nation’s leading clean baseload source of power but faces challenges in the development and use of small modular reactors and other technologies that produce less waste and are more economically viable to manufacture.

Grid-scale energy storage holds the promise of opening the door wider for both reliable clean energy sources like nuclear and intermittent renewable power sources by capturing excess electricity when prices are low and utilizing that energy during peak demand.

ClearPath [has for months been highlighting advanced nuclear and grid-storage goals](#) over the next decade, as well as those for carbon capturing technologies.

ClearPath Action is a 501(c)(4) working to create and influence conservative clean energy solutions. Find out more at clearpath.org and clearpathaction.org . Also follow us on Twitter: [@JayFaison1](#), [@powellrich](#) and [@ClearPathAction](#).