# CLEARPATH APPLAUDS KEY NUCLEAR INNOVATION WIN

*NEICA would strengthen public-private partnerships needed to accelerate commercialization*

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13, 2018 -- ClearPath Action applauds House approval of the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act, which would strengthen partnerships between the private sector and government researchers to test and demonstrate the next generation of clean advanced nuclear reactor concepts.

“NEICA will create a strong new foundation for global nuclear innovation leadership. By preparing a test bed for our advanced reactor entrepreneurs, we have thrown down the gauntlet to our Russian and Chinese competitors that the United States will not be out-innovated in the technology we invented,” ClearPath Action Executive Director Rich Powell said. “NEICA’s broad bipartisan support also illustrates the virtual consensus on the need to prioritize this vital clean energy technology.”

The bill, led by Sens. Michael Crapo (R-Idaho), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and others, was approved by the Senate in March and now heads to President Trump. Rep. Randy Weber (R-Texas) had also been pushing similar legislation for years, including sponsoring a bipartisan companion bill (H.R. 431) that had passed the full House more than a year ago as part of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (H.R. 589).

NEICA authorizes the development of a versatile neutron source for advanced reactor testing. Many of the promising new reactor designs currently being developed utilize “fast neutrons,” so the test bed created under NEICA is essential to developing those new fuel designs. A versatile neutron source can also allow accelerated research for all new advanced reactors. It is important to note that this R&D capability is only available for civilian use in Russia, so a domestic U.S. facility is essential to advancing American technologies.

The bill also directs the Department of Energy to prioritize partnering with private innovators to test and demonstrate advanced nuclear reactor concepts. That includes creating a National Reactor Innovation Center combining the technical expertise at our world-leading national labs and DOE to spark the construction of demonstration reactors.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission would also be a partner in the effort, allowing early interactions with developers and potentially leading to the expediting of licensing as the technologies mature toward commercialization.

House lawmakers Thursday also approved the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (H.R. 589), which provides policy direction to the DOE on basic science research and important reforms to streamline national lab management. The bipartisan bill from House Science and Technology Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas) and other leaders on the panel provides longer term certainty for the Office of Science's energy innovation hubs, which have improved agency coordination around energy innovation. The bill also modernizes the national lab system and promotes the transfer of federal research to the private sector in order to bring innovative ideas to the commercial marketplace.

The House approved a version the Senate modified and the bill now advances to President Trump for his signature.

***About ClearPath Action***

*Founded by businessman Jay Faison, ClearPath Action's mission is to accelerate conservative clean energy solutions. To advance the mission, ClearPath Action develops cutting-edge policy and messaging and works with policymakers and industry. Follow us on Twitter: @JayFaison1, @powellrich, @ClearPathAction*