

PRESS RELEASE
Thursday, June 25, 2020



ClearPath Action and 43 Organizations Join 20 Senators Pushing to Include NELA in NDAA

Washington, DC – Thursday, June 25, 2020 – Today, a bipartisan group of 20 senators led by Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) [sent a letter](#) to Senate Armed Services Committee Leadership, urging the inclusion of the Nuclear Energy Leadership Act (NELA) (S. 903) in the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Sens. Murkowski and Booker are the original authors of NELA.

“America has held a nuclear innovation tradition since the first defense nuclear reactors during World War II and the early Cold War buildup. The Nuclear Energy Leadership Act (NELA) would serve as the next big nuclear innovation catalyst,” **said Rich Powell, Executive Director of ClearPath Action.** “The interconnection of nuclear energy and national security is an American tradition, but beyond that, NELA includes a significant role for DoD.”

“A strong civil nuclear sector benefits U.S. geopolitical goals. Exporting a reactor creates a 100-year relationship with the recipient country. Russia and China have recognized this and are using their state-backed financing to reshape global energy politics. A robust civil nuclear industry is also essential to U.S. nonproliferation leadership. When the United States is leading in nuclear technology and exports, we can hold other countries accountable on security and safeguards requirements. Russia and China do not require the same assurances of peaceful use as the United States,” **wrote the 20 Senators.**

ClearPath Action – along with 43 other organizations – [sent a similar letter](#) to the Senate Armed Services Committee requesting that NELA be in the NDAA.

“NELA would accelerate the commercialization of a new generation of nuclear reactors that are designed to provide energy in multiple ways beyond traditional large-scale nuclear electricity production. These new nuclear energy products are important components in a modern, clean, resilient energy system that can meet civilian and defense needs. With China and Russia now developing and exporting advanced reactors to strategically significant countries throughout the world, it is critical that the U.S. reassert leadership in this geopolitically important field,” **the organizations wrote.**

The Senators signing on to the Murkowski-Booker letter include: Senators John Barrasso (R-WY), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Mike Crapo (R-ID), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Jim Risch (R-ID), Doug Jones (D-AL), Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Chris Coons (D-DE), Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Rob Portman (R-OH), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Mark Warner (D-VA), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), and Bill Cassidy (R-LA).

The diverse group of organizations supporting this effort includes environmental, labor union, energy industry, defense industry and other stakeholder groups who signed the letter. The full list of signers includes:

Advanced Nuclear Weapons Alliance (ANWA) Advocacy; Advanced Reactor Concepts; American Public Power Association; American Security Project; Arnold Ventures; Bipartisan Policy Center Action (BPC Action); BWX Technologies, Inc.; Center for Climate and Energy Solutions; Centrus Energy Corp.; Clean Air Task Force; ClearPath Action; Concurrent Technologies Corporation; Duke Energy; Edison Electric Institute; Energy for Humanity; Energy Northwest; Framatome Inc.; GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy; General Atomics; Generation Atomic; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW); Jensen Hughes; Kairos Power LLC; Lightbridge Corporation; National Rural Electric Cooperative Association; The Nature Conservancy; North American Young Generation in Nuclear; Nuclear Energy Institute; Nuclear Innovation Alliance; NuScale; Orano USA; Southern Company; TerraPower; Terrestrial Energy USA; Third Way; Thorium Energy Alliance; Ultra Safe Nuclear Corporation; UrencoUSA; U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Energy Institute; U.S. Nuclear Industry Council; Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems; Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium; X-Energy, LLC; and Xcel Energy.

MEDIA CONTACT

Luke Bolar
bolar@clearpathaction.org
(202) 355-3677

ABOUT CLEARPATH ACTION

ClearPath Action's vision is that America leads in affordably powering the world with reliable clean energy. ClearPath Action's mission is to develop and advance conservative policies that accelerate clean energy innovation. To advance that mission, ClearPath Action develops cutting-edge policy and collaborates with academics and industry. Learn more at clearpathaction.org. Follow us on Twitter: @ClearPathAction, @JayFaison1, @powellrich