

HEARING ON NUCLEAR ENERGY

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES**

MARCH 25, 2021

**COMMENTS FOR THE RECORD
OF**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Chairman Manchin, Ranking Member Barrasso, thank you for holding this important hearing on nuclear energy.

As some of the largest manufacturing electricity consumers in the U.S., we support efforts to develop and deploy cost-competitive nuclear energy units, including smaller modular units potentially for our use. We also support relicensing of existing nuclear units. Due to its reliability attributes, nuclear energy is essential to addressing climate change.

IECA is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with excess of \$1.0 trillion in annual sales, over 3,700 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.7 million employees. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: chemicals, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, building products, automotive, independent oil refining, and cement.

COMMENTS FOR THE RECORD

Importance of cost-competitive nuclear power: Technology and permitting solutions are needed which will result in cost-competitive nuclear power. Most IECA companies are energy-intensive trade-exposed (EITE) industries, which means that the price of electricity can determine competitiveness relative to foreign competitors. For manufacturing, cost-competitive power is needed to enable U.S. investments and job creation. EITE industries consume about 80 percent of the energy consumed by the total U.S. manufacturing sector.

Importance of reliable power: The manufacturing sector operates 24/7, which means we need reliable power. The intermittency of renewable energy is already negatively impacting power quality. Poor power quality can negatively impact production of products, and damage products and equipment. With increased renewable power generation, maintaining a minimum of reliable baseload power generation is essential. With the reduction of coal generation, increased baseload nuclear power generation is of increasing importance.

Importance of electric generation that produces steam for the EITE industries: Modular nuclear energy generators are of interest because it generates steam energy. A significant portion of EITE industries use steam energy to operate facilities. EITE industries are often co-located near one another, which makes it easy for one nuclear unit to generate steam for multiple manufacturing sites, therefore avoiding use of fossil energy and GHG emissions. We urge the Senate to make industrial size nuclear generators an integral part of the strategy to rejuvenate U.S. nuclear power generation.

Importance of non-emission power generation: Nuclear power generation is the only baseload power source that does not have emissions and is essential to meeting climate change challenges.

Importance of diversity of generation sources: Consumers benefit when there is diversity of generation sources that compete with one another. Competition between and among generation sources yields lower prices and better service. With the reduction in coal use, cost-competitive nuclear energy is needed to fill the void.

We look forward to working with you to advance cost-competitive nuclear energy.

Sincerely,

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