



## **Big Bipartisan Advanced Nuclear Bills Unveiled**

WASHINGTON, March 3, 2017 -- ClearPath Action is excited to see a strong bipartisan group of Senate Environment and Public Works leaders unveil a new version of their plan to develop the necessary regulatory framework to quicken the licensing of advanced nuclear reactors.

EPW Chairman John Barrasso, former EPW Chairman Jim Inhofe and fellow Republicans Mike Crapo, Deb Fischer and Shelley Moore Capito teamed up with Democrats Sheldon Whitehouse, Cory Booker and Joe Manchin on the latest iteration of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (NEIMA).

Their bill would direct the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to develop a technology-inclusive licensing plan that promotes safety without being prescriptive, while modifying the cost-recovery mechanism so utilities aren't on the hook for other companies' technologies.

This is part of a broader effort to "rightsize" the NRC to match its workload and NEIMA wisely prevents the NRC from allowing its annual fees and administrative costs to overwhelm the broader nuclear industry.

Separately, Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.) introduced the bipartisan Nuclear Utilization of Keynote Energy (NUKE) Act to update NRC's fee structure, expedite licensing and examine other potential benefits to the nuclear industry. The NUKE act establishes reasonable deadlines for major applications and other efforts to streamline licensing, and authorizes studies to reconsider outdated regulations of the Atomic Energy Act.

Both bills include provisions to limit how much NRC can collect for overhead costs tied to running the agency to ensure adequate funding is spent to develop a regulatory framework for advanced reactors without overcharging. They also both cap fees for existing reactors at 2016 levels.

“U.S. nuclear is in a crisis with China, Russia and others taking our best people and ideas and doing what we aren’t because of a slow-walking NRC,” ClearPath Action CEO Jay Faison said. “These bills help bring our advanced nuclear jobs, production and leadership back home.”

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