



CLEARPATH APPLAUDS KEY SENATE NUCLEAR INNOVATION WIN

NEICA would strengthen public-private partnerships needed to accelerate commercialization

WASHINGTON, March 7, 2018 -- ClearPath Action applauds Senate approval today of the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act ([S. 97](#)), which would strengthen partnerships between the private sector and government researchers.

“NEICA is an important step in developing the public-private partnerships needed to traverse the dreaded valley of death that often stops groundbreaking nuclear innovation from becoming commercialized,” ClearPath Action Executive Director Rich Powell said. “It’s also another great example of the broad bipartisan support on Capitol Hill for forging ahead with the next-generation of clean and reliable nuclear technologies.”

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 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.

Senate approval is an important step in an effort that began last Congress. Rep. Randy Weber (R-Texas) is sponsoring a bipartisan companion bill ([H.R. 431](#)) that is backed by other House Science and Technology Committee leaders. The Weber bill passed the full House more than a year ago as part of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act ([H.R. 589](#)).

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