



## **Congress Approves Major Advanced Nuclear Package**

Dec. 21, 2018 -- In a remarkable final development building on the most productive legislative season for nuclear energy in decades, Congress has approved a plan to develop the necessary regulatory framework to quicken the licensing of advanced nuclear reactors.

The bipartisan [Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act \(NEIMA\)](#) would direct the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to develop a common-sense licensing pathway for advanced reactor concepts that promotes safety without being overly prescriptive. This is part of a broader effort to “rightsize” the NRC to match its workload.

“It’s heartening to again see Congress step up to the plate in a big bipartisan way to bolster advanced nuclear technologies that are major part of the future of U.S. and global clean and reliable power,” ClearPath Action Executive Director Rich Powell said. “Bringing any new energy technology into the marketplace is daunting, and that’s doubly-true for heavily regulated industries like nuclear. By allowing companies a pathway to licensing with clearer expectations and benchmarks in line with other heavily regulated products like drugs and aircraft, NEIMA will unlock even greater private-sector innovation towards a reinvigorated nuclear sector.”

NEIMA was originally authored and sponsored by a bipartisan group led by Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), former EPW Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), Republicans Mike Crapo (Idaho), Deb Fischer (N.D.) and Shelley Moore Capito (W.Va.) and Democrats Sheldon Whitehouse (R.I.), Cory Booker (N.J.) and Joe Manchin (W.Va).

The version approved this week and sent to President Trump also includes language from the bipartisan Nuclear Utilization of Keynote Energy (NUKE) Act led by Reps. Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.), Mike Doyle (D-Pa.), Bob Latta (R-Ohio) and Gene Green (D-Texas) to update NRC’s fee structure, expedite licensing and examine other potential benefits to the nuclear industry. The NUKE act, [separately approved by the House in September](#), establishes reasonable deadlines for major applications and other

efforts to streamline licensing, and authorizes studies to reconsider outdated regulations of the Atomic Energy Act.

This reform package ensures a a nimble but effective regulatory agency focused on safely and efficiently licensing of America's next generation of nuclear reactors.

***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*