

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

As the Subcommittee begins its work on the Fiscal Year 2017 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill, we write to you regarding funding for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). As you are well aware, this regulatory body is paramount to ensuring the safe and reliable operation of our nation's nuclear reactor fleet. Safety comes first in the nuclear industry and an effectively funded NRC ensures safety will not be compromised. Specifically, we request a total funding of \$916.3 million for FY2017.

The president's budget this year requested \$982.3 million for the NRC. At recent House and Senate appropriations hearings, Chairman Burns stated that NRC has identified an additional \$36 million in savings not included in the president's proposed budget, and would be submitting those potential savings to the Subcommittee in time to be incorporated into your FY2017 bill. These reductions reflect agency efficiencies being implemented, a decreased workload, and cost savings that have been realized through "Project Aim"—an NRC-led initiative to "right-size" its budget because of fact-of-life changes that reduced NRC's anticipated new reactor workload—all while increasing transparency and accountability at this government agency.

Given the current external pressures facing our nation's nuclear industry, we feel it is imperative that the NRC budget be given the utmost attention as the Subcommittee begins its FY2017 draft. Unlike other electricity generation sources, ratepayers, through nuclear utilities, pay the bill for 90% of the budget authority granted to NRC by Congress through a fee-based system. By ensuring NRC's overall budget is properly allocated, Congress will directly reduce unnecessary burdens on hardworking American families, ultimately resulting in lower monthly utility bills.

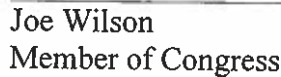
In addition to overseeing existing reactors to ensure ongoing operational safety, the NRC plays a vital role in licensing new and innovative reactor technologies. Advanced Reactor Licensing and the Integrated University Program are widely supported Congressional initiatives and should remain "off fee" base. Private companies and the research community have come to the table with fresh ideas on ways to build the next generation of nuclear reactors, potentially creating thousands of American jobs. We ask for your support on these efforts so that we can build that next generation here at home.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of our request. While we fully support the mission of the NRC and appreciate the vital role it plays in ensuring the safe operation of the fleet, Congress has the responsibility to set the NRC's funding at the appropriate level of \$916.3 million. It is our hope that the upcoming bill reflects a funding level that allows NRC to perform its core safety mission, identifies opportunities for increased efficiencies and effectiveness, recognizes the decreased workload, and looks forward to new and innovative technologies that will help America maintain its dominance in the field of nuclear energy.

Sincerely,



Bill Flores  
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress



David Rouzer  
Member of Congress




Frank C. Guinta  
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress



Robert Pittenger  
Member of Congress



James B. Renacci  
Member of Congress



Rick Allen  
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



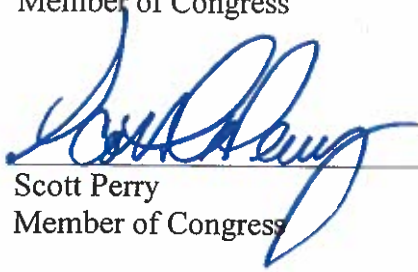
David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress

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Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress



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Scott Perry  
Member of Congress

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Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress

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Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



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Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress

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Tom Marino  
Member of Congress



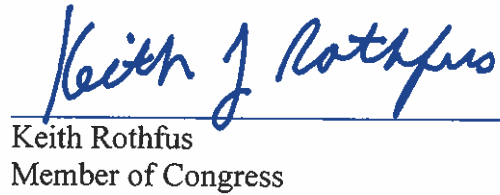
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Mia Love  
Member of Congress



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Brad Wenstrup  
Member of Congress



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Keith Rothfus  
Member of Congress