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NEI Urges Support for Nuclear-Related Concepts in Proposed Energy Innovation Act



WASHINGTON, D.C., July 24, 2009—Energy legislation introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives—the American Energy Innovation Act (H.R. 2828)—would strengthen U.S. energy security through increased innovation, conservation and production, including greater reliance on nuclear energy. Following is a statement from Alex Flint, the Nuclear Energy Institute's senior vice president of governmental affairs, on the legislation that was introduced by Rep. Rob Bishop of Utah and is pending before the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on Energy and Environment.

"The nuclear industry believes that the nuclear-related legislative concepts embodied in the American Energy Innovation Act merit support from members of Congress on a bipartisan basis. The proven performance of U.S. nuclear power plants demonstrates that Americans can and should rely on this carbon-free, highly efficient form of electricity production to help meet the nation's future economic and environmental needs.

"Importantly, this proposed legislation contains provisions designed to encourage construction of advanced-design nuclear power plants and tax credits that would promote growth in the U.S. manufacturing sector and provide the good-paying 'green jobs' that our ailing economy so urgently needs. The bill also promotes recycling of used nuclear fuel in pursuit of long-term environmental stewardship, and authorizes agreements with volunteer host communities for interim, above-ground storage of used fuel while advanced recycling technologies are developed.

"NEI applauds Congressman Bishop for his leadership in offering an energy policy for our nation, and pledges to work with him and other members of Congress to enact legislation that recognizes the value that clean, reliable nuclear energy provides to American society."

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