Summary of Testimony
Nuclear Energy Institute
Maria Korsnick, President and Chief Executive Officer
Subcommittee on Energy
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
January 7, 2026

Nuclear energy is essential to meeting America's rapidly growing electricity demand while keeping power reliable and affordable and strengthening national security. As demand rises across the economy—driven by data centers, artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, and electrification—nuclear power provides always-available, clean electricity that stabilizes the grid and reduces exposure to price volatility for consumers.

The United States enters this period from a position of strength. The nuclear fleet continues to operate at historically high levels of safety and reliability, providing nearly one-fifth of the nation's electricity and almost half of its clean generation. Bipartisan action by Congress has preserved the existing fleet, advanced regulatory modernization, strengthened fuel security, and helped launch new nuclear projects. These efforts have moved the next generation of nuclear energy from concept toward initial projects, but sustaining this momentum will require turning early progress into repeatable, large-scale commercial deployment.

To meet rising demand, support U.S. leadership in nuclear technology and artificial intelligence, and compete globally, NEI urges Congress to continue to focus on the following priorities:

- **Timely implementation of modernized NRC processes and regulations.** Congressional oversight is essential to ensure a risk-informed, performance-based, and predictable regulatory framework that maintains safety while enabling timely licensing decisions.
- **Mitigation of early-mover financial risk to accelerate new reactor deployment.** Targeted government-sponsored tools to protect consumers, taxpayers, and investors are needed to manage early-project cost and schedule risk, unlock private capital, and enable repeatable deployment at scale.
- **Establishment of a secure domestic nuclear fuel supply chain.** Timely disbursement of appropriated funding is critical to reducing reliance on untrustworthy suppliers.
- **Establishment of a comprehensive, durable national strategy for used fuel management.** Progress on recycling, interim storage, transportation, and disposal should be advanced together as part of an integrated, long-term framework.
- **Cultivation of a robust workforce and supply chain.** Continued government, industry, university, and labor coordination is needed to ensure the skilled workforce and manufacturing capacity required for new projects.
- **Engagement to support U.S. competitiveness in global markets.** Coordinated federal leadership, efficient export processes, and effective financing tools are essential to support U.S. companies.

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I am Maria Korsnick, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI).[1] I appreciate the opportunity to testify before the Subcommittee and thank Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Subcommittee Chairman Latta, Subcommittee Ranking Member Castor, and the rest of the Committee for inviting me to discuss the current state of nuclear energy in the United States and how its expansion will enable the nation to achieve our economic and energy-security priorities.

Impressive performance across the existing nuclear fleet, rapid growth in electricity demand, industry innovation, and bipartisan support for nuclear energy are converging in a way not seen in decades. Congressional and Administration actions—on licensing, technology demonstration, fuel supply, tax credits, and financing—have reinforced support for the existing fleet and facilitated the transition for new nuclear projects to move from concept to reality. Projects are advancing (with some beginning early-stage construction), supply chains are moving to scale, and capital is mobilizing. With the foundation that Congress has established over the past decade and the additional and deliberate actions of the Administration, we now have conditions conducive to continued operation of the existing fleet and the deployment of new nuclear technologies.

[1] NEI's mission is to promote the use and growth of clean nuclear energy through efficient operations and effective policy. NEI has more than 300 members, including companies that own or operate nuclear power plants, reactor designers and advanced technology companies, architect and engineering firms, fuel suppliers and service companies, consulting services and manufacturing companies, companies involved in nuclear medicine and nuclear industrial applications, radionuclide and radiopharmaceutical companies, universities and research laboratories, labor unions, and international electric utilities.

However, there is more to be done. The task now is to build on that foundation—to translate early progress in new nuclear deployment into a sustained, large-scale buildout by addressing the remaining barriers hampering the transition from initial projects to repeatable commercial deployment. Accomplishing that task requires preserving the indispensable role that nuclear power already plays in our energy system, economy, and national security, and taking focused policy action to leverage the current momentum and accelerate new deployment at scale. In short, bringing the industry's extensive technological advancements to market will require mitigating first-mover financial and permitting risk, successive "fast follower" deployments, regulatory expertise and efficiency, supply-chain ramp-up, workforce development, and supportive localities.

I. Nuclear energy is essential to America's reliability, affordability, and national security.

Nuclear power is the bedrock of the nation's clean, reliable electricity system. The U.S. nuclear fleet continues to operate at historically high levels of safety and reliability and remains the country's largest source of clean electricity. Today, 94 commercial reactors in 28 states provide nearly 20 percent of America's electricity and almost half of its clean generation, delivering approximately 800 million megawatt-hours of around-the-clock power each year. Because nuclear plants operate continuously, they are essential to grid stability and system resilience.

Nuclear facilities are among the most secure assets on the electric grid. They are hardened against physical and cyber threats and designed to continue operating during extreme weather. The combination of security, reliability, and scale makes nuclear energy uniquely valuable to national security, particularly as electricity demand growth places increasing strain on the grid.

Nuclear energy is also a major economic driver. The nuclear sector contributes more than $60 billion annually to U.S. gross domestic product and supports hundreds of thousands of jobs nationwide. Across the operating fleet, the industry directly employs more than 70,000 highly skilled workers in long-term, well-paying positions, with wages that exceed energy-industry averages.[2] That number climbs to 250,000 when secondary jobs are included. Plant operations and maintenance alone account for tens of millions of hours of labor each year, including roughly 20 million union labor hours. In short, the nuclear industry supports skilled trades and technical professions across the country.

With growing demand on the horizon, grid operators and states are paying greater attention to the critical role nuclear energy plays in keeping electricity affordable. With capacity factors averaging over 90 percent industrywide, operation to 60 and in many cases 80 years, and refueling only every 18 to 24 months, nuclear plants provide continuous, always-available power that helps stabilize the grid and moderate overall system costs. Because nuclear generation is not dependent on weather conditions or short-term fuel markets, it helps limit exposure to price spikes, avoiding cost volatility for households, businesses, and critical infrastructure operators.

Nuclear plants also serve as economic anchors in the communities where they operate. They generate more than $12 billion annually in federal, state, and local tax revenue, providing stable funding for schools, infrastructure, emergency services, and other essential public needs—particularly in host communities, many of which are in rural areas. These attributes underscore why nuclear energy is not simply one resource among many, but a cornerstone of America's reliable, affordable, and secure energy system.

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[2] Oxford Economics, *The Economic Contribution of The US Nuclear Power Industry* at 4, 12 (Oct. 2024), https://www.oxfordeconomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/The-economic-contribution-of-the-US-nuclear-power-industry.pdf.

II. Nuclear energy is essential to meet rising electricity demand in the U.S.

The United States is entering a period of enormous and sustained electricity demand growth not seen in decades. The rapid expansion of data centers, artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, and electrification across the economy is exerting unprecedented pressure on the electric system. Nowhere is this more evident than in the race to develop and deploy advanced AI capabilities—a race in which the United States is competing directly with China and other nations. Our success in this arena, particularly against China, depends on technological innovation and delivery of large volumes of reliable, around-the-clock power. Meeting this national security imperative requires a robust and resilient energy and industrial base that enables U.S. companies to lead in global competition.

Data center electricity demand in the United States is projected to increase threefold from current levels,[3] and many large-load customers are already responding by seeking long-term, reliable power solutions. The nuclear industry is mobilizing to meet this demand, with plant owners increasing output from and extending the life of the existing fleet while also advancing plans for new reactors. Technology companies and utilities have announced nearly 40 gigawatts of nuclear-related partnerships spanning license renewals and uprates at existing plants, the restart of previously shuttered facilities, and new-reactor development. Beyond the bulk power system, energy-intensive industries, including advanced manufacturing, steel, petrochemicals, and fuel production, are increasingly seeking to use nuclear power to meet a range of energy needs. It is precisely because nuclear plants of varying sizes and types can support a wide range of use cases, including electricity, process heat, and on-site or off-grid applications, that we are

[3] Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 2024 United States Data Center Energy Usage Report (Dec. 2024), https://escholarship.org/uc/item/32d6m0d1.

seeing frequent announcements of deals being negotiated for nuclear generation.

Market signals confirm that large electricity users value nuclear energy not only for its flexibility, 24/7 reliability, and clean generation, but also because other resources cannot consistently meet these requirements at scale. Nuclear power is uniquely positioned to undergird the growth of the AI/data economy and domestic manufacturing, advancing national priorities of economic competitiveness, energy security, job creation, and technological leadership.

The industry appreciates the decisive role Congress has played in facilitating the industry's progress. Bipartisan support for demonstration and deployment programs—such as the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program and the Gen III+ Small Modular Reactor initiatives—together with Congressional leadership on regulatory modernization through the ADVANCE Act and recent National Environmental Policy Act reforms, seed the ground for nuclear projects to go from concept to demonstration to deployment. Additionally, Congress has been instrumental in encouraging investment in operating plants and new nuclear projects through its extension of the Price-Anderson Act and nuclear-supportive tax credits.

In addition to strong bipartisan Congressional support the industry has received, it is the beneficiary of the Administration's renewed focus on nuclear energy. In May of last year, President Trump issued four Executive Orders to drive more rapid reactor restarts and power uprates to increase output from the existing fleet, advance construction of new large reactors this decade, and expand U.S. nuclear capacity from 100 gigawatts today to approximately 400 gigawatts by 2050. The orders reflect a clear recognition that firm, clean nuclear power is indispensable to meeting reliability needs and supporting long-term economic growth, technological leadership, and national security.

The industry is stepping up to meet this moment. NEI's 2025 utility survey[4] found that plant owners are pursuing license renewals at 26 units and power uprates at 29 units, extending fuel cycles at 12 units (largely facilitated by accident-tolerant fuel programs supported by Congress), and advancing plant restarts in Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Iowa over the next five years. Industry expects to make $22 billion in capital investment in the current fleet in the next ten years. These actions represent fast and cost-effective ways to add clean, reliable capacity. By making even greater use of existing assets, the industry will add more than eight gigawatts of additional nuclear capacity over the next decade. NEI member utilities are concurrently advancing plans for new nuclear generation, reporting approximately 23.4 gigawatts of new nuclear under active planning over the next 15 years. To ensure new deployments are constructed in a timely and cost-effective manner, the industry is applying construction and project-management best practices to improve schedule discipline, enable repeatability, and significantly reduce costs as deployment expands.

III. Regulatory modernization will enhance U.S. leadership in nuclear energy.

The nuclear industry's commitment to safety is unwavering. For more than four decades, the U.S. nuclear industry has maintained a strong safety record under a regulatory framework designed to protect public health and safety and support public confidence in nuclear energy. At the same time, industry experience has long shown that current and seemingly ever-expanding regulatory processes are unduly time consuming and ponderous, and in need of modernization. Many regulatory requirements are not sufficiently focused on safety-significant issues and therefore do not meaningfully contribute to safe operation but simply impose burden. Thus, the industry has long encouraged the NRC to modernize its regulatory framework and allocation of

[4] The Future of Nuclear Power, 2025 Update Survey, https://www.nei.org/futurereport2025.

resources to better align regulatory effort with credible risk and data-supported operating experience.

The purpose of regulatory modernization is not to reduce safety standards. Rather, it is to update regulatory requirements to reflect decades of scientific, technological, design, and operational advancements, focus on credible risks, and appropriately credit operating experience. Implementing a risk-informed, performance-based, and predictable regulatory approach will focus NRC oversight on safety-significant issues, improve clarity regarding applicant and licensee obligations, and support consistent, timely decision-making. Concentrating agency resources where they have the greatest safety value will strengthen operational outcomes, continue to protect the public, and support an effective, high-functioning nuclear fleet. Modernizing the regulatory process in a manner appropriate to the safety case for new, innovative designs also will facilitate safe and more rapid deployment of advanced reactors.

We applaud Congress for taking significant steps over the past decade to drive the NRC to improve its processes and oversight. The Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act, enacted in 2019, required the NRC to modernize its fee recovery and licensing processes, establish performance metrics and milestone schedules to improve licensing predictability, and expand the use of risk-informed, performance-based regulation. More recently, the Accelerating Deployment of Versatile, Advanced Nuclear for Clean Energy (ADVANCE) Act directed further improvements to licensing, oversight, and fee recovery, and reinforced the importance of agency efficiency, regulatory predictability, and staff accountability. The ADVANCE Act has been a standout bipartisan success and has already yielded efficiencies, including shorter and more disciplined licensing schedules, fewer duplicative regulatory processes, streamlined inspection programs, and a shift toward allocating inspection resources based on safety significance and

performance history. The ADVANCE Act also underscored the need to maintain strong technical capabilities at the NRC by providing the agency with additional tools for recruiting and retaining talent. Thanks to the leadership of this Committee, these actions are improving regulatory effectiveness while preserving the NRC's core safety mission.

As part of modernizing the NRC's regulatory framework, we continue to encourage Congress to eliminate the mandatory uncontested hearing requirement in the Atomic Energy Act. This additional hearing was added decades ago to address agency transparency concerns that no longer exist. Even with the revisions to the process that the NRC recently implemented, a mandatory hearing can add months of delay and significant cost without enhancing safety or public participation. Notably, eliminating this requirement will not affect the public's right to request a contested hearing on specific issues, but would meaningfully improve licensing timeliness as new reactor deployment accelerates.

Recent executive actions have reinforced the need to continue agency reform. Executive Order 14300, *Ordering the Reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission*, calls for a regulatory system that is risk-informed, performance-based, and responsive to national energy and security priorities. NEI has provided more than 100 detailed recommendations to assist the NRC in translating these directives into concrete changes in licensing, oversight, and inspection practices.[5] We highlight, among the many recommendations submitted, the need to rebuild the NRC's talent pool given recent retirements and departures. With the coming wave of applications for licensing actions, it is critical that the NRC be right sized with appropriately expert staff to timely and competently manage agency matters.

[5] NEI, *Accelerating NRC Reform: Industry Recommendations* (July 2025), https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML2521/ML25212A199.pdf.

Establishing modernized NRC regulatory processes is critical not only for safety, but also for investment. In the past, uncertainty regarding licensing timelines, review scope, and regulatory expectations undermined owner, investor, and public utility commission confidence in nuclear projects, even when the need for power was clear. Greater regulatory focus, stable licensing pathways, and highly disciplined schedules will allow projects to plan and construct with greater time and cost assurance, giving all key stakeholders greater confidence in the project's success. We encourage Congress to maintain active oversight of the agency's implementation and provide additional direction to ensure that NRC's efforts to modernize deliver timely, durable results.

IV. Mitigating early mover risk will accelerate new nuclear deployment.

The challenge now is to lock in recent progress and achieve the necessary scale to ensure a reliable energy supply and U.S. leadership in both nuclear technology and artificial intelligence. U.S. companies are actively developing more than 30 reactor designs of varying sizes and types, several of which are being readied for near-term demonstration or deployment. Some new reactor demonstration projects have already started early phases of construction, and multiple advanced designs are in various stages of licensing and demonstration, supported by coordinated efforts across the Department of Energy, the Department of Defense, national laboratories, and private industry. Growing interest from utilities, reactor designers, technology providers, industrial customers, and investors reflects broad recognition that nuclear energy will be essential to meeting future electricity demand. This progress demonstrates that the United States has established the technical readiness and institutional capacity needed for initial new nuclear deployment.

The last two Administrations have set goals of tripling or quadrupling U.S. nuclear generation capacity by 2050, yet grid-scale deployment is proceeding at a slow pace. Achieving deployment at scale requires creation of an orderbook—a pipeline of concurrent or successive projects. Yet the financial risks associated with deploying grid-scale nuclear plants involve decade-long exposure to potential project risks, including economic and market shifts, geopolitical circumstances, supply-chain limitations, workforce constraints, regulatory delay, and innovative construction techniques. As a result, many prospective customers and investors are waiting for early projects to proceed before committing to broader deployment.

Because early movers are exposed to higher costs and greater downside risk, utilities, investors, and regulators have questioned the certainty of earning a reasonable return on investment. To reach the scale necessary to meet the nation's energy needs, deployment must progress to Nth-of-a-kind projects, where designs are standardized and construction is repeatable. Successive deployments enable learning across projects, and supply chain and workforce growth, all of which improve cost and schedule performance. As plants are built and regulatory, workforce, and supply-chain bottlenecks are resolved, project durations will shorten, and project completion and returns will become more predictable.

Congressional action to address this early-mover challenge for initial projects will help companies establish order books and unlock greater access to private capital. Targeted policy tools that provide financial protection against project-related cost and schedule uncertainty for customers, taxpayers, and ratepayers are needed. Such risk-sharing mechanisms are a key component to support the early-mover deployment ecosystem and would help break the current stalemate by allowing early projects to move forward while avoiding substantial increases in consumer costs. Properly structured risk-sharing—through a limited, but catalytic federal role—

does not replace private investment; it enables it by allowing developers, utilities, investors, and customers to proceed without bearing disproportionate exposure to first- and early-of-a-kind risk.

Congress has had the foresight to lay important groundwork for nuclear to scale through loan guarantees, and cost-shared demonstration and deployment programs. Initiatives such as the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program and the Gen III+ Small Modular Reactor Program are moving technologies toward deployment while generating the operational, manufacturing, and construction experience needed for successive projects. In addition, DOE's authorization of pilot deployments of initial test reactors—drawing on close technical engagement with the NRC—can allow early projects to proceed while ensuring that safety insights and design experience inform future commercial licensing. But to truly maximize the benefits of DOE-authorized pilot projects as a predicate for NRC licensing of commercial facilities, the engagement with the NRC must be consistent and transparent. Establishing a clear, predictable transition process is essential to DOE and NRC meeting their Atomic Energy Act and other statutory obligations.

Continued federal follow-through and additional policy mechanisms to address initial early-mover risk are needed to build a reliably licensed project pipeline that enables standardization, scale, and sustained cost discipline. With effective early-mover risk management, predictable licensing, and public-private partnership, new reactors can be deployed in a disciplined, scalable manner that supports U.S. leadership in nuclear technology.

V. A domestic nuclear fuel cycle is critical to plant operation and national security.

The United States must have a secure and reliable nuclear fuel cycle to sustain the existing nuclear fleet, enable new reactor deployment, and protect U.S. energy and national security interests. Recent geopolitical developments—most notably Russia's invasion of Ukraine—have underscored the risks associated with reliance on untrustworthy foreign sources

for critical nuclear materials and services. As the domestic industry navigates a transition away from Russian nuclear fuel supply, we ask Congress not to impose limits that could jeopardize the operational reliability of current and future plants or increase energy costs for consumers. The United States must continue to work in concert with allies to rebuild and secure key elements of the domestic nuclear fuel supply chain.

The industry appreciates that Congress has taken important steps to address fuel security by appropriating funds to restore domestic capabilities across uranium mining, conversion, enrichment, and advanced fuels, including both low-enriched uranium (LEU) and high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU). In total, Congress has appropriated $3.4 billion to support domestic capacity—a critical investment in reestablishing a sufficient and sustainable U.S. nuclear fuel supply. These funds must now be dispersed for their intended purpose of rapidly securing domestic fuel capabilities. Timely disbursement is essential to prompt private capital investment and reduce strategic dependence on adversarial suppliers.

Recent executive actions further highlight fuel security as a national priority. Executive Order 14302, *Reinvigorating the Nuclear Industrial Base*, reflects the Administration's recognition that a domestic fuel cycle is imperative for near-term reliability and long-term deployment. Here, too, the industry is answering the call by expanding uranium mining, developing enrichment and conversion capacity, and entering firm commercial supply arrangements. We respectfully urge Congress and the Administration to support these efforts by ensuring that appropriated funds reach their intended recipients in a timely manner.

Further, effective Congressional oversight will be key to ensuring that funds appropriated by Congress result in measurable increases in domestic fuel availability and long-term supply security. The immediate task is to turn appropriations into executed contracts, completed

facilities, and sustained commercial fuel production. These actions will underpin current and future plant operations to meet growing electricity demand.

VI. A comprehensive and durable framework for used nuclear fuel management supports our national priorities.

For decades, the nuclear industry has safely and securely managed used fuel at reactor sites. More than 4,300 NRC-licensed dry storage systems are in service today, establishing a strong safety record and demonstrating the industry's commitment to responsible used fuel storage while awaiting implementation of a long-term disposal solution. With a sound technical and regulatory foundation in place, and the continued advancement of used fuel-related technologies, fuller consideration should be given to a comprehensive and durable national policy for used fuel management.

Recycling should be addressed as part of an integrated, comprehensive strategy for used fuel management and disposal. Recycling and advanced fuel-cycle technologies can complement the federal government's efforts to establish a safe and secure disposal pathway. When recycling is deployed consistent with appropriate nonproliferation standards, it can improve resource efficiency, reduce reliance on imported nuclear fuel, and strengthen U.S. energy and national security. Progress on recycling, interim storage, transportation, and permanent disposal should be considered together as parts of a coherent system, rather than each pursued in isolation.

The Executive Order on reinvigorating the nuclear industrial base directs the Department of Energy—working in coordination with the Departments of Defense and Transportation and the Office of Management and Budget—to develop recommendations for a national policy to restore a functional used nuclear fuel management and disposal program and advance next-generation fuel cycle capabilities. NEI supports this effort and has provided recommendations to

inform DOE's work.[6] Implementing these recommendations would establish a credible, integrated framework that aligns federal responsibilities, enables private-sector innovation, and provides long-term certainty for communities, utilities, and investors. The industry will work with Congress, the Administration, and other stakeholders to translate these recommendations into a durable, workable used fuel management system.

VII. Rebuilding the U.S. workforce and supply chain is essential to deploying nuclear energy at scale.

Attracting and training the next generation of nuclear workers is a critical industry need. The ability to sustain the existing nuclear fleet and deploy new reactors at scale depends on a skilled workforce and robust supply chains. Nuclear facilities require expertise across operations, construction, engineering, manufacturing, and skilled trades. These careers provide long-term, family-supporting jobs and serve as economic anchors in host communities.

Cultivating a sufficient workforce will require coordinated action across federal, state, and industry partners. Congress and the Administration have taken important steps to support workforce development, including legislation to strengthen nuclear research and education capabilities at U.S. universities and expand pathways into advanced nuclear technologies. Effective implementation of these initiatives—along with support for apprenticeship programs, community colleges, and partnerships with the military and skilled trades—is necessary to ensure a large and qualified workforce for existing plants and new construction.

Supply chain readiness is equally critical. Deploying the next generation of nuclear reactors will require expanded domestic manufacturing capacity for major components, advanced fuels, instrumentation and control systems, and other specialized equipment.

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[6] NEI, *Industry Used Nuclear Fuel Management and Recycling Recommendations in Response to Executive Order 14302, "Reinvigorating the Nuclear Industrial Base"* (Oct. 9, 2025).

Rebuilding and scaling these supply chains takes time and sustained investment. Clear demand signals, execution certainty, and federal support can help manufacturers make the investments needed to deliver components reliably and at scale.

Continued coordination among Congress, the Administration, states, educational institutions, labor, and industry will ensure that the United States has the people, capabilities, and industrial capacity needed to deliver nuclear energy over the long term.

VIII. U.S. competitiveness in global nuclear markets is an economic and national security imperative.

Global demand for nuclear energy is growing as countries seek reliable, affordable, and clean power to support economic development and energy security. Across nearly every continent, nations are launching or expanding civil nuclear programs, including advanced reactor technologies suited for smaller grids, industrial applications, and energy-security needs. This increasing demand represents a strategic opportunity for U.S. companies—provided they can compete effectively in a highly government-influenced global market.

That competition is intense. Russia and China continue to leverage state-owned enterprises, sovereign financing, and coordinated diplomatic engagement to secure long-term nuclear partnerships abroad. Civil nuclear exports are not conventional commercial transactions: they depend on sustained government-to-government engagement, regulatory cooperation, and credible financing support. For U.S. firms to compete, federal policy must align commercial, diplomatic, and security objectives and provide the financial, legislative, and diplomatic tools necessary to enable U.S. technology companies to succeed in international markets.

Domestic deployment of nuclear energy is essential to U.S. competitiveness. International customers expect U.S. nuclear technologies to be licensed, constructed, and operated successfully at home before committing to long-term partnerships abroad. Progress in

deploying new reactors in the United States directly strengthens the credibility of U.S. offerings overseas.

Recent developments underscore the value of federal leadership and industry engagement in this area. U.S. policy has increasingly recognized the strategic importance of nuclear exports, reflected in strengthened export financing tools, renewed attention to bilateral nuclear cooperation agreements, and expanded engagement with multilateral institutions. Congress's reauthorization of the International Development Finance Corporation and enactment of the International Nuclear Energy Act have substantially enhanced the competitiveness of U.S. nuclear exports.

Major international financial institutions, including the World Bank, have recently lifted longstanding restrictions on financing nuclear projects, and key partner countries are taking steps to address legacy legal and regulatory barriers to new plant deployment. These developments are beginning to improve the competitive position of U.S. companies and open new markets for U.S. technologies. Sustaining this momentum will require continued coordination across the federal government, efficient export authorization processes, effective export financing tools, and adequate resourcing of agencies that support U.S. nuclear engagement abroad.

IX. Conclusion

I thank the Committee for its continued support of nuclear energy and for the opportunity to testify on the policies needed to establish an efficient, predictable licensing process and advance new nuclear deployment. The progress of the last several years demonstrates what is possible when Congress, the Administration, and industry work together on a national priority. Continued bipartisan engagement, and congressional leadership and oversight remain essential to

sustaining that progress. NEI and its members stand ready to work with the Committee to deliver affordable, dependable, and secure nuclear energy for the American people.

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