



September 18, 2019

The Honorable Doris Matsui
United States House of Representatives
2311 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C., 20515

The Honorable Salud O. Carbajal
United States House of Representatives
1431 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C., 20515

The Honorable Mike Levin
United States House of Representatives
1626 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C., 20515

The Honorable Scott H. Peters
United States House of Representatives
2338 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C., 20515

The Honorable Andy Kim
United States House of Representatives
1516 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C., 20515

Robin Vos
Assembly Speaker
Wisconsin
President, NCSL

Martha R. Wigton
Director
House Budget & Research
Office
Georgia
Staff Chair, NCSL

Tim Storey
Executive Director

RE: Storage and Transportation Of Residual and Excess Nuclear Fuel (STORE) Act of 2019

Dear Representative Matsui, Representative Carbajal, Representative Levin, Representative Peters, and Representative Kim:

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the bipartisan organization representing the legislatures of our nation's states, commonwealths, and territories, we applaud your continued efforts to develop much-needed legislation that would establish a consent-based interim program to manage the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. The STORE Act represents an important step forward in this conversation.

NCSL has long supported efforts by both Congress and the administration to develop a solution that addresses spent nuclear fuel storage and high-level radioactive waste management. NCSL recognizes that nuclear power is an integral part of a national energy plan and that the nuclear industry continues to safely and securely store used fuel at its facilities, but also understands the need to address certain issues including transportation, storage and disposal of used nuclear fuel. State legislators can and do play a significant role in developing nuclear energy policy, whether it be in statehouses across the country, town hall meetings with our constituents or meetings with our respective congressional delegations.

Most importantly, NCSL strongly supports this bill's goal of implementing a consent-based siting process for disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste. Such a process mirrors recommendations made by both the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future in 2012, and the Department of Energy in 2013. Although neither this bill, nor NCSL, takes a position on the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository, a pillar of NCSL's Radioactive Waste Management policy has been that the siting of facilities for both interim storage and long-term disposal, be the result of a consent-based approach and that it involves all affected levels of government, including state legislatures. Ensuring such consultation respects the traditional role of state legislatures in the appropriation of funds and performing program oversight.

NCSL has an extensive history of working on issues related to nuclear waste management and welcomes the opportunity to continue working with Congress to enact a realistic solution to storing our nation's nuclear waste. Please feel free to contact NCSL staff Ben Husch (202-624-7779 or ben.husch@ncsl.org) for more information.

Sincerely,



Representative Stephen Handy
Co-Chair NCSL Natural Resources and
Infrastructure Committee
Utah House of Representatives



Representative Andrew McLean
Co-Chair NCSL Natural Resources and
Infrastructure Committee
Maine House of Representatives