



November 22, 2021

Dear President Biden:

On the behalf of the organizations we represent, we are writing to urge you to proceed with nominations for the two open seats on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

As you know, the NRC is comprised of five presidentially appointed, U.S. Senate-confirmed commissioners, who are commonly referred to as “the Commission,” and approximately 3,000 federal employees referred to as the staff. The Commission oversees the NRC staff, and together they license and regulate the nation's civilian use of radioactive materials to provide reasonable assurance of adequate protection of public health and safety.

The NRC carries out a vital national mission, which includes the regulation and oversight of the nation's 93 operating nuclear power plants. Those plants produce a majority of the nation's clean, carbon-free electricity and are an essential component of a reliable U.S. electric grid. The NRC is also responsible for licensing new nuclear plants and the agency is developing a modernized licensing framework for the small modular reactors and advanced reactors that are essential for deep decarbonization of our economy.

The NRC operates best with a full complement of five qualified Commissioners who have diverse and complementary backgrounds, and a strong technical grounding in nuclear science and technology. Unfortunately, the Commission was last at full strength in January 2021, nearly a year ago, and two of the five seats have been open since June. Restoring the Commission to a full complement of Commissioners will help the regulatory agency carry out its responsibilities in the most effective and efficient manner. A well-functioning NRC will support your administration's policy of sustaining and expanding nuclear power to help achieve your goal of 100 percent carbon pollution-free electricity generation by 2035.

Historically, the Commission has acted as an essential executive function of government, outside the purview of day-to-day political considerations. There are many qualified nuclear professionals eligible for service on the Commission. The Atomic Energy Act, as amended, requires you to nominate persons to fill open seats, subject to confirmation by the U.S. Senate. We urge you to discharge that responsibility with all due haste.

The American Nuclear Society is the professional society for the men and women working in the field of nuclear technology. The United States Nuclear Industry Council is the leading U.S. business advocate for advanced nuclear energy and promotion of the American supply chain globally.

Sincerely,

Steven P. Nesbit
President
American Nuclear Society

Bud Albright
President & CEO
U.S. Nuclear Industry Council (USNIC)

cc: Senator Chuck Schumer
Senator Mitch McConnell
Senator Tom Carper
Senator Shelley Moore Capito