

November 20, 2024

The Honorable Michael McCaul
Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gregory Meeks
Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Advancing U.S. National Security through the International Nuclear Energy Act

Dear Chairman McCaul and Ranking Member Meeks:

As Co-Chairs of the [Nuclear Energy and National Security Coalition \(NENSC\)](#), we write to underscore the critical importance of including the International Nuclear Energy Act (INEA) in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2025. Passage of this landmark legislation would advance key U.S. national security priorities and strengthen our leadership in the global nuclear energy arena.

The INEA is designed to bolster U.S. strategic influence in civil nuclear energy, a sector vital to global security and economic competition. Its provisions directly support U.S. efforts to counter growing geopolitical threats, particularly from nations seeking to dominate nuclear technology supply chains. By promoting the deployment of safe, secure, and advanced nuclear technologies, the INEA would:

1. Enhance Energy Security for Allies and Partners

U.S. civil nuclear exports enable allies and partners to secure reliable, carbon-free baseload power. This reduces their dependence on energy supplies from adversarial nations and increases their resilience against energy coercion, fostering greater regional stability.

2. Strengthen Nonproliferation Objectives

By ensuring U.S.-origin technologies and fuel services dominate international markets, the INEA reinforces the adoption of stringent safety, security, and nonproliferation standards. This leadership is vital in maintaining global nuclear governance frameworks.

3. Support Strategic Competition with Authoritarian Regimes

The INEA provides tools to counter predatory practices by state-led enterprises in authoritarian regimes, which frequently tie energy projects to opaque financing and political leverage. A robust U.S. nuclear export program offers transparent, rules-based alternatives.

4. Build Domestic Industrial Capacity and Workforce Expertise

Expanding U.S. nuclear exports drives domestic economic growth, creating high-quality jobs in engineering, manufacturing, and plant operations. This ensures the U.S. remains a global leader in nuclear innovation.

5. **Strengthen Alliances and Partnerships**

Civil nuclear cooperation underpins many of our most vital alliances, including those with NATO members, Indo-Pacific partners, and other strategic allies. By supporting shared clean energy goals, the INEA helps solidify these relationships in an era of heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

Inclusion of the INEA in the NDAA is both timely and appropriate. The NDAA has historically served as a vehicle for legislation addressing critical national security concerns. The INEA's alignment with energy security, strategic competition, and nonproliferation objectives places it squarely within the NDAA's scope. Furthermore, its enactment would reinforce the strategic goals articulated in recent National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy documents.

We respectfully urge you to champion the inclusion of the International Nuclear Energy Act in the NDAA. This legislation offers a decisive path to enhancing U.S. security and international leadership.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us at information@nensc.org if we can provide further information or support.

Sincerely,



Admiral Richard W. Mies, USN (Ret.)



Daniel B. Poneman

Co-Chairs, Nuclear Energy and National Security Coalition

Cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
 Members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services
 Members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs
 Members of the House Committee on Armed Services