



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2018

No. 201

Senate

The Senate met at 11:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Father of mercies, You illumine all history with the shining light of Bethlehem. In this season, when we think about peace on Earth and good will to humanity, bless all those who love and serve You by working for unity, justice, and civility in our world. Continue to use our lawmakers for Your glory. Make them strong in their convictions, as they seek to faithfully serve You and country. Lord, draw them close to You and to one another, inspiring them to bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law and the Gospel. And Lord, bless and keep Your servant, Senator ORRIN HATCH and his beloved Elaine as they prepare to transition from the Senate.

We pray in the Name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alaska.

NUCLEAR ENERGY INNOVATION AND MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 108, S. 512.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 512) to modernize the regulation of nuclear energy.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE*.—This Act may be cited as the “Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act”.

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS*.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

Sec. 3. Purpose.

Sec. 4. Definitions.

TITLE I—ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTORS AND USER FEES

Sec. 101. Nuclear Regulatory Commission user fees and annual charges through fiscal year 2019.

Sec. 102. Nuclear Regulatory Commission user fees and annual charges for fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Sec. 103. Advanced nuclear reactor program.

Sec. 104. Advanced nuclear energy licensing cost-share grant program.

Sec. 105. Baffle-former bolt guidance.

Sec. 106. Evacuation report.

Sec. 107. Encouraging private investment in research and test reactors.

Sec. 108. Commission report on accident tolerant fuel.

TITLE II—URANIUM

Sec. 201. Uranium recovery report.

Sec. 202. Pilot program for uranium recovery fees.

Sec. 203. Uranium transfers and sales.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the safe and secure operation of nuclear reactors in the United States must remain the paramount focus of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission;

(2) the existing fleet of nuclear reactors in the United States is operating safely and securely;

(3) nuclear energy is the largest source of affordable, reliable, emissions-free energy in the United States, providing approximately 20 percent of the electricity consumed in the United States and 60 percent of emissions-free electricity generation in the United States;

(4) a 1,000-megawatt nuclear plant—

(A) provides approximately 500 permanent jobs;

(B) pays approximately \$40,000,000 annually in wages;

(C) generates approximately \$470,000,000 annually in goods and services in the local community; and

(D) pays approximately \$83,000,000 annually in Federal, State, and local taxes;

(5) nuclear energy is of critical importance to United States energy security and worldwide influence on nonproliferation;

(6) nuclear energy uses widely available fuel resources to enable scientific progress, emissions-free and reliable electricity generation, heat generation for industrial applications, and power for deep space exploration;

(7) the private sector, the National Laboratories (as defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)), and institutions of higher education are pursuing innovations in nuclear energy technology that will play a crucial role in—

(A) the future global and United States energy supply; and

(B) the exports, manufacturing, and economy of the United States;

(8) eventual deployment of commercial advanced nuclear reactors will require—

(A) modernizing the regulatory framework; and

(B) making other necessary changes to facilitate the efficient, predictable, and affordable deployment of advanced nuclear reactor technologies;

(9) 2 impediments to the commercialization of advanced nuclear reactors are the high costs and long durations associated with applying the existing nuclear regulatory framework to advanced nuclear reactors;

(10) license application reviews should be as predictable, efficient, and timely as practicable without compromising safety or security;

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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