



Jim Matheson
Chief Executive Officer

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), I am writing to express our support for H.R. 3053, the *Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017*. H.R. 3053 would make considerable progress toward finalizing a permanent repository for spent nuclear fuel, while also providing for consolidated storage options that would expedite removal of spent fuel from our members' facilities.

NRECA is the national service organization representing over 900 not-for-profit, member-owned, rural electric cooperative systems, which serve 42 million member-owners in 47 states. This includes 63 generation and transmission cooperatives, which generate or purchase power from a diverse mix of fuel sources, including significant investments in nuclear facilities. These nuclear power plants play an integral role in providing reliable electric supply and limiting carbon dioxide emissions.

An essential part of these nuclear operations, however, is the certainty that the Department of Energy will take timely delivery and ownership of the spent nuclear fuel that it is obligated by law and contract to receive. H.R. 3053 would lay the groundwork to fulfill this commitment and resolve decades of regulatory and financial uncertainty.

The Energy and Commerce Committee's 49 to 4 vote in favor of H.R. 3053 is an encouraging sign of the broad, bipartisan support this legislation has already received. On behalf of rural electric cooperatives across the country, NRECA would like to thank you and Rep. Shimkus for the work you have done on this issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you as you advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

Jim Matheson
CEO, NRECA