

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2022

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
U.S Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th St., NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Secretary Granholm and Director Young,

We write today with grave concern for the state of our nation's supply chain for advanced uranium fuels. As you are aware, the Russian Federation is a major supplier of uranium to the U.S. nuclear industry, supplying nuclear fuel for both existing nuclear reactors and next-generation research. Alarming, the American Nuclear Society reports that Russia's state-owned nuclear energy corporation is the only company capable of producing a commercial supply of High Assay, Low Enriched Uranium (HALEU), which will play a critical role in the development of advanced nuclear reactors.

In light of Russia's illegal and unjustified invasion of Ukraine, we write to request that you take immediate steps to remedy this situation to ensure that the United States is not reliant on a hostile foreign power for HALEU. **As a first step, we believe it is necessary to include a significant increase for the Advanced Nuclear Fuel Availability Program in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2023 budget request to Congress.**

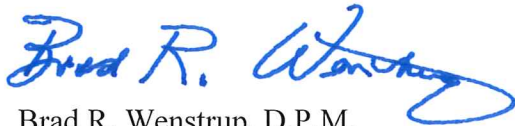
As you know, enriched uranium is critical for national defense, nonproliferation, and commercial purposes. Low enriched uranium is required to support the existing fleet of light-water nuclear reactors as well as for the National Nuclear Security Administration's tritium production program, while highly enriched uranium is used to fuel America's nuclear Navy. In addition, there is a growing need for HALEU for use in nonproliferation programs, for Department of Defense micro-reactors currently under evaluation, and for the next generation of advanced nuclear reactors and advanced nuclear fuels. These advanced reactors are a promising source of clean, American-made energy that will be key to our energy independence and security.

Congress recognized the key role of HALEU by establishing a program in the Energy Act of 2020 to support the availability of HALEU for domestic research, development, demonstration, and commercial use. This program will be a critical component of developing a domestic and commercial source of HALEU, as nine out of the ten reactors selected for awards through the Department's Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program (ARDP) will require HALEU-based fuels to operate. In recent testimony before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Undersecretary for Science and Innovation Geraldine Richmond indicated that, until recently, Russia was considered the chief supplier of the initial cores of HALEU fuel for the ARDP

demonstration reactors. Clearly, the United States should not rely on Russia as a source of nuclear fuel for taxpayer-funded advanced reactor demonstrations.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to working with you to strengthen our nation's domestic enriched uranium supply chain, starting with a robust investment in the FY23 budget.

Sincerely,



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress



Rob Portman
U.S. Senator



Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress



Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress