

September 19, 2016

The Honorable Tom Rice
223 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Rice and Blumenauer:

I am writing in support of H.R. 5879, your bill to extend the advanced nuclear production tax credit (PTC). Third Way agrees with leading climate authorities that nuclear energy can and should play a significant role in meeting domestic and global climate goals. Nuclear energy is the single largest source of zero emissions electricity in the United States, and advanced nuclear has the potential to build upon this foundation and provide even deeper emissions reductions. Legislation like H.R. 5879 is essential to the success of advanced nuclear technology.

As we reported last year, there are nearly 50 advanced nuclear projects backed by well over a billion dollars in private capital in the U.S. alone. To fully realize the climate benefits of advanced nuclear—as well as the economic and national security benefits of developing these reactors here in the U.S.—we need federal policies that recognize and reward the many positive attributes of these technologies. There has been promising action in both the House and Senate to ensure adequate research and development infrastructure and a regulatory pathway for advanced reactors. However, market support is also needed.

Production tax credits are an important tool in deploying clean energy technologies, and have been incredibly successful in dramatically increasing the deployment of renewable energy. Advanced reactors can benefit from similar policies. Your bill H.R. 5879, which would ensure that future advanced nuclear projects are able to utilize the existing PTC for advanced reactors by removing the current 2020 deadline, is a much-needed step towards commercializing advanced reactors.

We applaud your introduction of H.R. 5879 and are encouraged by its movement through the Ways and Means Committee. We look forward to continuing to support this important piece of legislation as it moves through the House and Senate.



Josh Freed
Vice President for the Clean Energy Program
Third Way