

December 22, 2022

The Honorable Scott Nathan
Chief Executive Officer
U.S. International Development Finance Corporation
1100 New York Ave. NW
Washington, D.C., 20527

Dear Mr. Nathan:

We write today to express our appreciation of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation's (DFC) 2020 decision to modernize its civil nuclear energy policy.¹ In furtherance of the DFC's updated goals for nuclear energy, we urge the DFC to adhere to its 2020 modernization decision and begin financing international nuclear energy projects—including the use of advanced nuclear technology.

As stated on the DFC website, “DFC makes America a stronger and more competitive leader on the global development stage with greater ability to partner with allies on transformative projects.”² We agree that the DFC has an important role in supporting the continued and future deployment of U.S. advanced nuclear technology abroad—but we must emphasize the main reasons *why* it's important for the DFC to invest in and promote the use of advanced nuclear technology.

To begin, advanced nuclear technologies are the definition of “transformative projects” because they are versatile, reliable, long-lasting, land-efficient, resource-efficient, geopolitically secure, and scalable sources of clean, carbon-free energy.³ Bold investments in advanced nuclear capacity will facilitate technological innovation, secure U.S. leadership in the international nuclear markets, and bolster our country's national energy security and electricity grid resilience.⁴ The time is now for the DFC to carry out its goal of making America a “stronger and more competitive leader” around the globe by taking advantage of this once-in-a-generation opportunity to promote the use of this revolutionary energy technology.

While nuclear energy overall received bipartisan support in the 117th Congress, the momentum is building for even greater bipartisan efforts relating to nuclear energy in the 118th Congress. Members of Congress in both parties have embraced nuclear energy for its inherent role in reducing carbon emissions, and its intrinsic natural advantages as an alternative energy source. In addition to recognizing these benefits, we believe that the DFC should also understand that America's nuclear leadership role is on the line—especially as countries like China and Russia continue to invest in and globally promote the use of advanced nuclear technology.

¹ See *DFC Modernizes Nuclear Energy Policy*, U.S. INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORP., <https://www.dfc.gov/media/press-releases/dfc-modernizes-nuclear-energy-policy> (announcing the end to the agency's prohibition on financing nuclear energy projects and enabling it to support civil nuclear projects according to the United States' broader commercial, development, environmental, energy, geopolitical, and national security interests).

² *Who We Are*, U.S. INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORP., <https://www.dfc.gov/who-we-are>.

³ See ADAM STEIN ET AL., *Advancing Nuclear Energy: Evaluating Deployment, Investment, and Impact in America's Clean Energy Future* (JUL. 6, 2022), https://thebreakthrough.imgix.net/Advancing-Nuclear-Energy_v3-compressed.pdf.

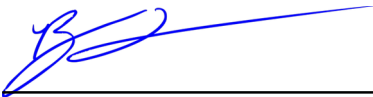
⁴ See *id.*

Over the past decade, our greatest adversaries have made strides to replace the United States as the world's dominant nuclear leader by placing a major focus on developing their nuclear industries—both domestically and for the export market abroad. Nonetheless, the global nuclear leadership race is not over yet. According to a recent report released by Idaho National Laboratory, [advanced] reactors have a realistic market opportunity in approximately 63 different countries with potential commercialization taking place between 2030–2050.⁵ Moreover, the Department of Commerce has identified that over the next ten years, the international market for nuclear equipment and services will yield around \$740 billion, and every \$1 billion of nuclear exports by U.S. companies could support anywhere from 5,000–10,000 jobs domestically.⁶

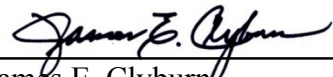
Although this intriguing economic window of opportunity is shrinking, the international community continues to lean on the United States to provide leadership when it comes to promoting and exporting advanced nuclear technology. Simply put, U.S. leadership in the international market will help spur nuclear-related investment abroad and will facilitate a strong demand signal for industry stakeholders. It will also provide the United States with the unique opportunity to set international rules for using advanced nuclear technologies and exert its high standards for nuclear safety on the global stage. Finally, greater international nuclear participation will provide our country with the unique opportunity to deploy nuclear-related technological expertise to countries that are interested in investing in advanced nuclear technology moving forward.

The United States has an unprecedented opportunity to reassert its nuclear leadership role around the world. We urge the DFC to invest in international nuclear energy projects and other opportunities to attract new nuclear energy applicants. The United States must take advantage of the ability to influence its global nuclear priorities—otherwise we risk losing serious ground as an international leader in nuclear energy. This emerging global market opportunity for advanced nuclear reactors speaks for itself, and the DFC will be vital in wielding America's future nuclear energy posture in the next Nuclear Renaissance.

Sincerely,



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress



James E. Clyburn
Majority Whip

⁵ See generally IDAHO NAT'L LAB., *Global Market Analysis of Microreactors* (JUN. 2021), https://inldigitallibrary.inl.gov/sites/sti/sti/Sort_47218.pdf.

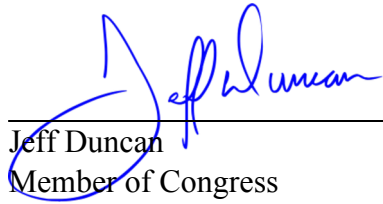
⁶ *Latest Developments in the Nuclear Energy Sector with a Focus on Ways to Maintain and Expand the Use of Nuclear Energy in the United States and Abroad: Hearing Before S. Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources*, 117th Cong. (2021) (statement by Amy C. Roma, Partner, Hogan Lovells U.S. LLP.), <https://www.energy.senate.gov/services/files/20BF3ACC-F6F4-4D7C-90C9-933DACA1D253>.



Charles J. "Chuck"
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Member of Congress



Bill Foster
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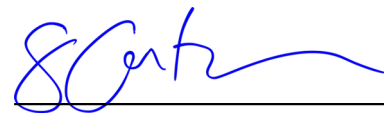
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