



North America's Building Trades Unions

May 9, 2018

Dear Member of Congress:

Sean McGarvey  
*President*

Brent Booker  
*Secretary Treasurer*

Newton B. Jones  
*Boilermakers*

Kinsey M. Robinson  
*Roofers*

James P. Hoffa  
*Teamsters*

Terry O'Sullivan  
*LiUNA*

James Boland  
*Bricklayers and  
Allied Craftworkers*

Frank Christensen  
*Elevator Constructors*

Kenneth E. Rigmaiden  
*Painters and Allied Trades*

James T. Callahan  
*Operating Engineers*

Joseph Sellers, Jr.  
*SMART*

Lonnie Stephenson  
*IBEW*

Eric M. Dean  
*Ironworkers*

James P. McCourt  
*Insulators*

Daniel E. Stepano  
*Plasterers' and  
Cement Masons'*

Mark McManus  
*UA*

On behalf of the 3 million members of North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU), I write in strong support of H.R. 3053, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017, and urge its immediate passage.

To date, ratepayers have paid more than \$40 billion to the Department of Energy to finance a nuclear waste disposal program. Indeed, NABTU members began construction on the Yucca Mountain site before the program was halted by the Obama administration. Our members want to get back to work and complete what they started.

H.R. 3053 is bipartisan legislation addressing many of the failures of our nation's nuclear waste management policy which has resulted in used fuel sitting at 121 sites across 39 states. The legislation provides for the Yucca Mountain Repository to once again begin the construction process and allows for temporary storage facilities to be built to consolidate nuclear waste from decommissioned nuclear power plants.

As America looks towards the future, we must realize that a permanent storage facility not only allows for the safest storage of used fuel, but such a facility also creates the necessary pathways and commitments needed for America to regain its leadership in commercial nuclear power. Below are some facts which put the urgency of the situation into prospective (both as zero-carbon power generation, and as a jobs generator):

- Each U.S. nuclear facility employs 400-700 workers per 1,000 megawatts of power
- The new reactors being built in Georgia employ over 4,000 NABTU members everyday
- There are 80,000 metric tons of used nuclear waste stored at small sites across the U.S. that require constant maintenance and vigilance
- The National Academy of Sciences found that the government and taxpayers would have to pay \$170 billion to subsidize the 186,000 wind turbines necessary to equal the output of 100 nuclear reactors

H.R. 3053 is needed to create a permanent solution for our nation's nuclear waste. Yucca Mountain has been thoroughly studied and construction is ready to begin, again. NABTU and its affiliated unions and members support this overwhelmingly bipartisan legislation and ask you to support this bill and put our members back to work.

Sincerely,

Sean McGarvey

*Value on Display. EVERY DAY.*