N A R U C

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

April 14, 2026

The Honorable Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)
Chair, Senate Committee on
Energy & Natural Resources
United States Senate
363 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich (D-NM)
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Energy & Natural Resources
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: NARUC support for Accelerating Reliable Capacity (ARC) Act of 2026, S. 3814.

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

On behalf of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), we are writing to express our support for the *Accelerating Reliable Capacity (ARC) Act of 2026, S. 3814*. This bipartisan legislation represents a pragmatic and forward-looking approach to strengthening U.S. leadership in advanced nuclear energy, ensuring that our nation continues to deliver clean, reliable, and affordable power for generations to come.

The ARC Act provides essential federal partnership to address the financial risks and uncertainties that have long impeded new nuclear construction. By establishing a disciplined cost-sharing framework through the Department of Energy's newly rebranded Office of Energy Dominance Financing, the bill balances industry accountability with the public interest. Its design—requiring cost controls, executive-level oversight, and post-construction disbursement—ensures responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars while accelerating deployment of next-generation reactors.

Our association has consistently affirmed that nuclear energy is indispensable to meeting rising electricity demand, maintaining grid reliability, and achieving decarbonization goals. With 94 reactors currently generating nearly one-fifth of U.S. electricity, nuclear power delivers unmatched reliability and zero-emission baseload energy that supports industrial growth, data center expansion, and domestic manufacturing. Advanced reactor technologies—such as small modular and microreactors—offer even greater potential for flexibility, safety, and scalable deployment in communities nationwide.

As reflected in the attached NARUC July 30, 2025 **Resolution Affirming Nuclear Energy's Indispensable Role in Powering a Clean, Reliable, and Resilient Future**, we support federal and state initiatives that, among other things, accelerate the deployment of advanced nuclear technologies as well as "proactive policies to mitigate the inherent risks of first-of-a-kind advanced nuclear projects, including targeted financial incentives, risk-sharing mechanisms, and streamlined permitting processes to catalyze deployment, protect ratepayers, and ensure economic viability."

The ARC Act advances these objectives. It offers a critical bridge between promising design and commercial realization—helping to ensure that U.S.-developed reactors lead the world in performance, safety, and clean energy innovation.

We commend the sponsor's bipartisan leadership and foresight in introducing this legislation, and we stand ready to support its passage.

Signed

Ann Rendahl NARUC President	John R. Hammond Jr., Chair NARUC Electricity Committee	Eric F. Skrmetta, Chair Subcommittee on Nuclear Energy

cc The Honorable Jim Risch (R-ID), United States Senate
The Honorable Ruben Gallego (D-AZ), United States Senate

Resolution Affirming Nuclear Energy's Indispensable Role in Powering a Clean, Reliable, and Resilient Future

Whereas nuclear power stands as a cornerstone of our nation's energy infrastructure, capable of delivering the highest capacity factor baseload energy, dispatchable, and emissions-free energy through continuous, round-the-clock operations 365 days a year, and providing a steadfast backbone for a sustainable energy future;

Whereas the United States proudly operates 94 nuclear reactors across 28 states, generating approximately 18 percent of the nation's electricity, making nuclear power an indispensable pillar of diverse state energy portfolios, ensuring stability and reliability in an era of growing energy demands;

Whereas a surge of forward-thinking state actions, including the lifting of statutory prohibitions or moratoriums on new nuclear facilities, reflects a dynamic and growing momentum for advanced nuclear technologies, unlocking pathways to achieve reliable clean energy goals and accelerating transformative economic development;

Whereas according to recent surveys, public confidence in nuclear energy has risen to a historic 60 percent, signaling robust and widespread support for its role in a clean energy transition;

Whereas nuclear energy fortifies national energy security, enhances transmission and grid reliability, promotes affordability with proven economy that electric grids integrating nuclear power may reduce costs to ratepayers;[1]

Whereas with many reactors poised to secure uprates and approvals for extended operations for up to 80 years, the existing nuclear fleet is projected to grow by more than 3 gigawatts of clean, reliable capacity over the next decade, underscoring the enduring and critical value of these assets to national energy objectives;

Whereas rising electricity demand, driven by transformative industrial growth in sectors such as data centers, low-carbon steel production, and petroleum industries, demands robust, baseload, and dispatchable energy sources, with nuclear power uniquely positioned to meet these needs;

Whereas legacy nuclear units, and innovative new deployments, are essential to meeting surging system demand with clean, reliable, and resilient energy, thereby ensuring a stable power supply for a rapidly evolving economy;

Whereas cutting-edge advanced nuclear technologies, including small modular reactors (SMRs) and microreactors, offer groundbreaking enhancements in safety, flexible siting options, and

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[1] Vibrant Clean Energy, LLC, *Role of Electricity Produced by Advanced Nuclear Technologies in Decarbonizing the U.S. Energy System*, June 17, 2022, https://www.vibrantcleanenergy.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/VCE-NEI-17June2022.pdf.

seamless integration with other energy resources, paving the way for a versatile and sustainable energy ecosystem;

Whereas advanced nuclear projects serve as powerful economic engines, driving substantial job creation, fostering technical innovation, and supporting resilient, sustainable energy infrastructure, with projects creating thousands of high-skilled jobs and stimulating local economies;

Whereas maintaining U.S. global leadership in nuclear technology is paramount to safeguarding national security, ensuring economic stability, and amplifying international influence in energy innovation, positioning America as a trailblazer in the global clean energy race;

Whereas the advancement of nuclear technologies demands a highly skilled workforce, necessitating robust investment in education and training programs to cultivate expertise and ensure U.S. competitiveness in this critical sector;

Whereas state public utility commissions often wield pivotal authority in overseeing the evaluation of nuclear power plant projects, ensuring their cost-effectiveness, reliability, and alignment with public interest through rigorous integrated resource planning analyses, fostering trust and accountability; and

Whereas addressing public concerns about nuclear energy safety, spent fuel management, and economic viability requires resolute commitment to transparent communication, robust regulatory frameworks, and proactive public engagement to build trust and understanding; *now, therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2025 Summer Policy Summit in Boston, Massachusetts, affirms the indispensable role of nuclear energy in the deployment of electricity—encompassing both the existing fleet and transformative advanced technologies—in meeting current and future electricity demands, ensuring transmission and grid reliability, and achieving ambitious state and national clean energy goals, thereby securing a sustainable and prosperous energy future; *and be it further*

Resolved, that NARUC

[] stands firmly in support of state and federal initiatives to preserve and extend the operational life of the existing nuclear fleet, accelerate the deployment of advanced nuclear technologies, and establish clear, streamlined regulatory frameworks to foster innovation and expedite project development;

[] champions proactive policies to mitigate the inherent risks of first-of-a-kind advanced nuclear projects, including targeted financial incentives, risk-sharing mechanisms, and streamlined permitting processes to catalyze deployment, protect ratepayers, and ensure economic viability;

[] calls for robust collaboration among all interested parties, including but not limited to, states, federal agencies, utilities, and industry stakeholders to ensure nuclear energy remains a cornerstone of a safe, cost-effective, and resilient electric transmission system and grid, harnessing its full potential to promote a clean energy system;

[] advocates for sustained investment in workforce development programs to build a dynamic, skilled labor force capable of supporting the nuclear energy sector's growth, equipping the next generation with the expertise needed to lead in energy innovation;

[] commits to fostering public engagement and education initiatives to enhance knowledge, trust, and awareness of nuclear energy's benefits, rigorous safety measures; and critical role in combating climate change, promoting national security, and ensuring informed public support for this vital resource.

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Passed the Subcommittee on Nuclear Energy on July 27, 2025, and the Committee on Electricity on July 28, 2025.
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on July 30, 2025.