December 13, 2022

The Honorable Joe Manchin III
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin:

Thank you for working with me to address America’s nuclear fuel security. The legislation we have developed is critical to ensuring America’s nuclear reactors have a domestic fuel source.

I request that the Energy and Natural Resources Committee hold a hearing on high-assay, low-enriched uranium (HALEU) availability early next year. Addressing America’s nuclear fuel supply chain vulnerabilities must be a top priority for our Committee in the 118th Congress.

America lacks a comprehensive plan to ensure the availability of nuclear fuel for existing and advanced reactors. As a result, one advanced reactor developer, TerraPower, recently announced that it anticipates a schedule delay due to the anticipated lack of HALEU.

Even if we are ultimately successful with our end of year efforts to secure the necessary authorizations and appropriations for America’s nuclear fuel security, it is imperative to hold an oversight hearing as soon as possible in the 118th Congress to ensure DOE is expeditiously moving forward with its existing authorities and funding to make HALEU available for our nation’s first class of advanced reactors.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

John Barrasso, M.D.
Ranking Member