

**Statement of Commissioner Stephen G. Burns to the Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development**

June 7, 2017

Good afternoon, Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Feinstein, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee. I am appreciative of the opportunity to appear before you today with my colleagues to discuss the U.S Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Fiscal Year 2018 budget request. I fully support Chairman Svinicki's testimony on behalf of the Commission.

I want express my appreciation for this Committee's support during my tenure as Chairman from January 2015 through January 2017. I believe that we had an extraordinarily supportive and cooperative relationship during that time, and I found the Committee's input to be invaluable. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Committee staff for their great efforts to work collaboratively with the agency and to communicate their concerns and feedback in a productive way.

The NRC's FY 2018 budget proposal is, in my view, a continuation of the agency's multi-year effort to conduct a meaningful reassessment of itself and to be responsible in executing its mission and use of resources. As the Chairman has already indicated, the NRC has achieved a great many accomplishments since last year with respect to efficiencies and improvements gained in our regulatory programs, corporate support, and rulemaking activities. I believe the proposed FY 2018 budget reflects the fruits of those efforts, but have no doubt the agency will continue to find additional ways to improve its efficiency and effectiveness.

I thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you, and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.