The Honorable Thomas R. Carper  
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your July 14, 2023, letter to me and my Commission colleagues at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regarding the NRC's draft proposed rule, “Risk-Informed, Technology-Inclusive Regulatory Framework for Advanced Reactors.” I appreciate the insights on the draft proposed rule included in the letter on behalf of you and the other members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representative who signed the letter. I assure you I am carefully reviewing the draft proposed rule.

As you are aware, the NRC initiated this rulemaking, also known as Part 53, at the direction of Congress pursuant to the 2019 Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (NEIMA). Consistent with NEIMA, the draft proposed rule intends to establish a risk-informed, performance-based regulatory framework for licensing new and advanced nuclear power reactors in a manner consistent with the NRC’s statutory mission to provide reasonable assurance of adequate protection of public health and safety, to promote the common defense and security, and to protect the environment. In doing so, the NRC will develop an effective framework that allows new and advanced reactor applicants to utilize a modernized regulatory process that appropriately prioritizes both safety and efficiency. I firmly believe that achieving this objective is central to the NRC fulfilling its statutory mission and direction while also serving as a key component for enabling the U.S. to meet its energy, environmental, and national security objectives.

As I finalize my review of the draft proposed rule, please be assured that I have thoroughly considered all stakeholder input, including the important issues highlighted in your letter. I believe the NRC can promulgate a rule that offers a durable, yet flexible, regulatory approach for new and advanced reactor technologies, while providing sufficient clarity and predictability for applicants to navigate the process efficiently and effectively.
My impending vote on the draft Part 53 proposed rule currently before the Commission will aim to balance these priorities through providing NRC staff clear guidance with sufficient detail to update the draft accordingly in advance of publishing the draft proposed rule for public consideration in the Federal Register.

Thank you again for your letter. I look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues on this topic and the many other important policy matters currently before the Commission.

Sincerely,

Bradley R. Crowell
Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper  
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member, Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pete Ricketts  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Deb Fischer  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cynthia M. Lummis  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Budd  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James E. Risch  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin Cramer  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Chair, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert E. Latta  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kathy Castor  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable H. Morgan Griffith  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John P. Sarbanes  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Johnson  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515
The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger F. Wicker
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Kelly
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin
111 United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Duncan
United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gary Palmer
United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul D. Tonka
United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gus M. Bilirakis
United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tony Cardenas
United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Larry Bucshon, M.D.
United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Scott H. Peters
United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Hudson
United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marc A. Veasey
United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Walberg
United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ann Mclane Kuster
United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Darren Soto
United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kim Schrier
United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515