



GENERATION

NEXT GEN TECHNOLOGY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Greetings,
Nino Vitale - Chair
Darrell Kick - Vice Chair
Sedrick Denson - Ranking Member

Thank you all for allowing my testimony,

[On February 5, 2020, President Trump wrote on Twitter: "Nevada, I hear you on Yucca Mountain and my Administration will RESPECT you!" "The administration is committed to exploring innovative approaches", he wrote, adding "I'm confident we can get it done."](#)

[In addition, a senior administration official said, "The President's 2021 budget will not have funding for the licensing of Yucca Mountain in it."](#)

[There is over \\$40 billion in the nuclear waste management fund.](#) There is a growing chorus of experts and professionals calling on the administration to use these funds to develop and commercialize technologies that can consume nuclear waste and produce carbon-free energy at prices competitive with natural gas.

[The new Energy Secretary, Dan Brouillette, is even more pro-development of new nuclear technologies than former Secretary Perry was.](#)

There is plenty of evidence that would suggest that it is more than likely that sometime in 2021 or 2022 that the nuclear waste management fund will be tapped to develop nuclear waste-reducing technology.

The eGeneration Foundation's discussions with the United States Department of Energy has led us to believe that there is support for the Federal government's decentralization of nuclear technology research and development. Passage of HB104 could position Ohio to be the first State in the union to take advantage of such decentralization efforts.

The economic forces pushing the United States energy industry for most of its existence were industry and the free-market. When we reached the late 1940's the government began to become more involved due to nuclear power being the elephant in the room.

At the beginning of the Cold War - Russian disinformation campaigns were designed to manipulate the positive perception of the American public of nuclear power to that of a negative one. When the Vietnam War ended many institutional protestors that rallied against America and the war found their way into the anti-nuclear movement. These anti-nuclear movements were tied to a misunderstanding of radiation and fears of atomic explosions as portrayed by Hollywood in the early 1960's through to the early 1980's.

These campaigns - whether they were genuine or as a result of Russian propaganda - not only spread unwarranted fear but cause the ratcheting up of costly regulations. Making nuclear energy much more costly while only making it incrementally safer than it already was. This fear and regulation has caused America to lose the lead in the development of nuclear technologies and a whole host of spin-off technologies.

When President Eisenhower launched the Atoms for Peace program and ushered through the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 the intention was to decentralize the development of Nuclear technology. As a result - over the next 30 years - even with massive regulations and expense Nuclear technology became 20% of the nuclear pie through free-market forces. Compare this to Wind and Solar that is mandated by state governments and is tremendously subsidized for the production of electricity over the last 50 years - finally has reached 10%.

The new fear driver is no longer nuclear energy and radiation - it is now climate change. Environmentalist are now quickly changing their tune on nuclear power and many once stalwart organizations are seeing their memberships shrink as [pro-nuclear environmental organizations grow](#).

Sub HB104 signals to the federal government that Ohio is ready to participate in re-decentralization efforts - as Eisenhower envisioned and how current law still dictates. The passage of Sub HB104 can be the spark that is part of the reinvigoration of the nuclear industry and is part of a larger push to pursue exceptionalism through capitalist modalities.

As we see it - the passage of Sub HB104 would have very little chance to produce any negatives for the State of Ohio but would have great potential to provide tremendous positives. This seems to be bolstered by President Trump's most recent statements and actions by Congress and the U.S. Energy Secretary.