

December 2, 2018

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Proponent Testimony- House Resolution 518

Chairman Landis, Vice Chair Hagan, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify as a proponent of HR 518.

My name is Carol Smidts. I am a Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the Ohio State University and the current Director of the Nuclear Engineering program. The nuclear engineering program at the Ohio State University is a graduate program, the flagship nuclear program of the state of Ohio. Our research covers various aspects such as risk, reliability, safety, instrumentation and control and nuclear materials. Our research is funded through different avenues but mostly by the Department of Energy and the US. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and we are thankful for their continued support of our activities. In addition, the Ohio State University also houses its own research reactor recognized as a part of the Nuclear Science User Facilities by the Department of Energy.

House Resolution 518 petitions the United States Department of Energy to promulgate rules and establish programs allowing states, such as the State of Ohio, in collaboration with the Department, to develop new nuclear technologies and laboratories and construct nuclear experimentation containment facility testing platforms.

As a representative member of and in consultation with my colleagues in the nuclear engineering program at the Ohio State University, we foresee the benefits of the petitioned new rules and programs as follows:

- 1) An increased ability to recruit and place nuclear engineering students in the state of Ohio and the consequent growth of nuclear education programs in Ohio;
- 2) The development of a workforce to be employed in said nuclear laboratories and facilities in Ohio,
- 3) The growth of research funding related to advanced nuclear technologies for universities, and small businesses as well as for larger ventures in Ohio;
- 4) The accelerated advancement of the sciences and technologies related to the development of clean energy and medical isotope production.

I therefore would ask for your support of House Resolution HR518.