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Proponent Testimony House Resolution 518

Generation Atomic is proud to support Ohio H.R. 518 and H.B. 771.

H. R. 518 creates a pathway for Ohio to become a leader in advanced nuclear technologies like advanced reactors, small modular reactors, and medical isotope research by forming a partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy and sharing costs and research and development between the two entities. The current method of funding the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission places an undue burden on our most innovative companies by requiring them to foot the bill not only for assessing new designs, but often, for creating entirely new regulations that correspond to a technology with which the NRC is not familiar. This burden threatens to quash promising new designs before they even have the chance to get off the ground, and only serves the interest of competing companies working to innovate in nuclear energy in other countries. H.R. 518 takes an innovative regulatory approach to break down barriers to innovation in the nuclear space, and holds the potential of opening up new doors for Ohio and the United States. Advanced nuclear reactors hold the promise of cheap abundant energy with virtually no environmental impacts. They could be factory built and shipped around the world. They hold the promise of providing virtually unlimited potable water from desalinating the ocean. They hold the promise of allowing us to continue to use the combustion infrastructure on which our society is based, without the environmental impacts, by using high temperature heat to manufacture carbon neutral fuels. The world deserves advanced nuclear, and Ohio has a real opportunity to be a leader in bringing it to fruition. We urge Ohio lawmakers to support H. R. 518.

Expanding on H.R. 518, H. B. 771 creates the Ohio Medical-Isotope Economic Development Consortium and Authority and creates tax credits for investments in the consortium. H. B. 771 would mean access to new isotopes for research, which could translate into new therapies for cancer, and a new industry for Ohio. Recent news demonstrates the importance of having access to exotic isotopes for research and development. Actinium-225, for example, is an isotope that could potentially cure some forms of distributed cancer, but current production levels are too low to mainstream this effort. This effort could radically alter how we look at and treat cancer in our lifetime. Medical isotopes have already saved millions of lives in diagnosing and treating several diseases. H.B. 771 enables Ohio to be a leader in developing and commercializing new therapies that can save even more lives, while creating a new economic engine for Ohio. We enthusiastically support this bill, and ask Ohio lawmakers to do the same.