



An Initiative of eGeneration Foundation



Testimony in support of Ohio House Resolution 518

By Jon Paul Morrow

Thank you Chairman Landis and members of the Energy and Natural Resources committee for allowing me testify and speak on behalf of eGeneration Foundation here today.

In 1954, under the leadership of President Eisenhower and his “Atoms for Peace Program”, and the [1954 Atomic Energy Act](#) - the Federal government decentralized the development of new nuclear technologies. These two programs combined to pass the baton for the development of peaceful uses of nuclear technology from the Federal government to civilian industries and to the states. This profoundly affected the politics of the entire world.

In the proceeding years, a lack of political interest, an unwarranted fear of nuclear technology due to public misunderstanding and misinformation, and a risk averse nuclear industry led to new laws that had the effect of re-centralizing the control of most substantive research and development back under the auspices of the Federal government.

Ohio House Resolution 518 asks the federal government to fulfill the tenets of the 1954 Atomic Energy Act. This is historic. With the passage of HR518, it will be the first time a state has ever requested to be more involved in the participation of developing new nuclear technologies. Technologies that can be utilized to fight cancers, provide better and cheaper healthcare through better medical diagnostics, and potentially someday eradicate our high level nuclear waste from legacy reactors and produce cheap carbon free energy.

While Ohio once had a storied history in the development of nuclear technologies with its many laboratories, many of the facilities Ohio once had are under utilized or are now defunct. While Ohio is still a top supplier to the nuclear industry, the industry as a whole has been reduced to a shadow of its former self. This has largely been due to its failure to innovate and bring new type nuclear reactors to market.

Passage of HR518 impresses upon the federal government that Ohio is not willing to let its nuclear industry die off and will not go quietly into the night. That Ohio is still interested in incubating new technologies that will undoubtedly help to shape our world - and who knows - someday maybe help us reach out into the heavens and touch new worlds.

As a survivor of brain cancer and pancreatic cancer, and as a person that watched helplessly as his fiancée was taken by cancer - I believe that passing HR518 is a great first step towards producing medical isotopes that can be used in new and novel ways to treat cancers and diseases to save millions of lives. One of the biggest hindrances to targeted alpha therapy experimentation is getting enough of the isotopes for medical trials - trials that have proven to be extremely successful although small. Our current reactors and current reactor technology cannot affordably produce these isotopes in quantities sufficient to treat a majority of patients.

While many equate nuclear with energy - nuclear plays a pivotal and essential role in medicine.

As presidential administrations come and go - so to does the funding for nuclear. As one presidential administration may accept nuclear and the next administration may despise nuclear - the result is a roller coaster ride for research and development.

Decentralizing nuclear research and development by allowing states to form CRADA (Cooperative Research And Development Agreements) with the United States Department of Energy can help to smooth out the peaks and valleys of the funding of research and development and once again gain enough stability to secure more private sector investment.

I implore the members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee - to dare, to be world leaders - to dare, to have an audacious vision of the future - and dare, to have the heart to save lives. I implore you to pass HR518 and send a pro-nuclear message to Washington D.C. and to the rest of the world.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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References

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's only consideration should ever be safety and not development. This is what Congress intended after they separated the duties of the Atomic Energy Commission into protection (Nuclear Regulatory Commission) and promotion (Department of Energy).

HR518 in no way seeks to sidestep the NRC.

It is right and proper for the DOE to fulfill the mission originally given to the AEC to:

- **Require the AEC to “recognize the interests of the States in the peaceful uses of atomic energy”** [U.S. Code 42 Section 2021.](#)
- **Required the AEC to “promote an orderly regulatory pattern between the Commission and State governments with respect to NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT”** [U.S. Code 42 Section 2021.](#)
- **Required the AEC to create “a program of conducting, assisting, and fostering research and development in order to encourage maximum scientific and industrial progress”** [U.S. Code U.S. Code 42 Section 2013.](#)
- **Required the AEC to “create a program of administration which will be consistent with the foregoing policies and programs, with international arrangements, and with agreements for cooperation”** [U.S. Code U.S. Code 42 Section 2013.](#)

Benefits of Nuclear Technology:

Reference: www.Nuclear-Video.com