

NUCLEAR MATTERS

Sample Letter to Elected Official

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE ZIP
DATE

Dear Official:

Nuclear power plants produce electricity 24 hours a day, seven days a week; produce zero carbon emissions; and provide important diversity to our nation's fuel mix. Not to mention the role they play in keeping the grid reliable.

On top of environmental benefits, nuclear plants provide hundreds of thousands of jobs and contribute more than \$60 billion to our national GDP.

Compared to other non-emitting sources, nuclear energy facilities are relatively compact. The amount of electricity produced by a multi-reactor nuclear power plant would require about 45 square miles of photovoltaic solar panels or about 260 square miles of wind turbines.

But nuclear plants are facing unprecedented challenges related to competitive markets that don't adequately compensate them for their unique contributions to our energy mix. As states are working on plans to help preserve baseload nuclear plants, I encourage you to support nuclear energy by talking to your colleagues about the benefits of nuclear and supporting legislative proposals that protect existing plants.

We need our elected officials to support solutions that will keep safe and reliable nuclear power plants working for all of us.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

A Guide to Town Hall Meetings

WHAT ARE TOWN HALL MEETINGS AND WHY DO THEY MATTER?

When the U.S. House and U.S. Senate are in recess, members of Congress will spend a great deal of time working in their district offices, meeting with constituents one-on-one and hosting town hall meetings. A town hall meeting is an excellent forum for a community to come together and ask questions about policy issues that affect everyone. These meetings are cornerstone activities of our democracy and are one of the few forums still available in modern politics that allow an open, direct conversation between elected officials and their constituents.

Most town hall meetings occur in August, although they can and do occur at other times when Congress is not in session. This guide will help answer any questions you may have about how to prepare to attend a town hall meeting, what to expect at these events and how to best communicate your questions or messages to your legislator.

HOW DO I FIND OUT IF MY MEMBER OF CONGRESS IS HOSTING A TOWN HALL MEETING?

- The best way to find out is to sign up for your congressman or congresswoman's e-newsletter, which will announce their public meetings and local appearances.
- Many legislators have migrated to other forums such as online town halls or town hall meetings via conference lines, called "tele-town halls." While the face-to-face dynamic has diminished, this direct line of communication to your legislator is still worth participating in.

HOW SHOULD I PREPARE TO ADDRESS MY ELECTED OFFICIAL?

- Know the issues. There are a range of resources available for you to review:
 - **Nuclear Matters Communications.** Every few weeks we will update you via email about the most relevant and important legislative issues. Take this information with you to meetings with your legislators.
 - **Advocacy Toolkit.** Available on the Nuclear Matters website, we have prepared for you talking points on each of the core issues surrounding nuclear energy.
- Do your homework on the legislator. Make sure you know a little about your legislator before you attend the meeting.
- Know the meeting format and location. Visit the legislator's website or call the office to learn more. Once you arrive at the meeting, see if there is a process for asking a question or making a statement at the meeting.

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WHAT HAPPENS ONCE THE MEETING STARTS?

- Prepare your question or comment in advance. Public speaking can seem intimidating, so write down your question or comment to focus on what you'd like to ask or convey.
- Be clear, concise, polite and professional. You are there as an advocate of nuclear power, so the Nuclear Matters talking points will help you to hone your message. It's best to weave your introduction into your question or comment, if possible. Start with who you are, where you work and your reason for being a nuclear advocate. You are most effective in your advocacy efforts if you are reasonable in your tone and request, even if the legislator disagrees with you.
- Encourage a response from your legislator. Sometimes legislators feel put on the spot or are not able to give you a specific answer at the time of the meeting. If he or she cannot give you a response, express thanks for the opportunity to speak and follow up with his or her staff after the meeting.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO ONCE THE MEETING IS OVER?

- Follow up. It is appropriate and encouraged to contact your legislator's office and thank them for holding the town hall and for the opportunity to speak. This is also the time to follow up on any unanswered questions or to share again any fact sheets or materials you want your legislator's office to have.
- Share your story. By reporting back to Nuclear Matters on your participation at a town hall meeting, we can help reinforce the message you delivered and assist with any necessary follow-up to maximize your efforts. Furthermore, we want to be able to share your story of advocacy with other Nuclear Matters members! Email info@nuclearmatters.com with your story of advocacy to encourage others to do the same.

The Benefits of Nuclear Energy – Key Talking Points

Nuclear energy matters. It plays a vital role in meeting our nation's electricity needs, protecting the environment, preserving fuel and technology diversity, and enhancing the nuclear science, technology, and medical fields, along with other applications. We must promote the benefits of nuclear technology to ensure an efficient license renewal process for existing facilities as well as implement policies that support building new nuclear energy facilities.

ELECTRICITY DEMAND

- Nuclear plants are the lowest-cost producer of baseload electricity. Ninety-nine nuclear power plants generate nearly 20 percent of our electricity, and in seven states, nuclear plants generate more electricity than any other source.
- The Energy Department projects that U.S. electricity demand will rise 22 percent by 2040, even with modest economic growth. That means the United States will need hundreds of new power plants of all types to meet increased demand and replace older facilities that are retired. To ensure a diverse supply portfolio, many of these new power plants will have to be nuclear.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS AND JOBS

- Nuclear plants strengthen state and local economies through jobs, taxes, and direct and secondary spending. A typical nuclear plant generates \$470 million per year in economic output, including more than \$35 million in total labor income and pays about \$16 million in state and local taxes annually. These tax dollars benefit schools, roads, and other state and local infrastructure.
- Nuclear plants are engines for local and national job growth, with more than 100,000 workers nationwide.

RELIABLE

- Until the electricity isn't there, many people take for granted the inherent reliability in electricity that nuclear power provides. Regardless of the weather, nuclear energy produces dispatchable electricity that is always there when you need it and that operates 24/7 for 18 to 24 months before shutting down briefly to refuel.
- In 2016, the U.S. fleet of nuclear power plants operated at a capacity factor of 92.1 percent; the most efficient of any fuel source.

CLEAN

- Nuclear power plants, which do not emit carbon dioxide, accounted for nearly 60 percent of U.S. emission-free generation in 2016.

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- The Trump administration has set ambitious goals for reducing carbon dioxide emissions, and the U.S. simply cannot achieve these without nuclear energy. Nuclear energy is the only emission-free source of electricity that can be widely expanded and relied upon as a baseload source of electricity.

VALUE OF FUEL DIVERSITY

- A national energy portfolio where one fuel source dominates the landscape is risky and expensive. The best available tool for managing uncertainty associated with any single fuel or technology is to maintain a diverse power supply portfolio or “all-of-the-above” energy strategy, which should include additional large light-water reactors (LWR), small modular light water reactors (SMR), and advanced non-light water reactors.
- The current diverse U.S. power supply reduces consumer power bills by over \$93 billion per year compared to a reduced diversity case.

ADVANCED REACTORS

- Advanced reactors are next-generation designs that will supplement the present light water reactor technology. The advanced non-light water reactor designs include high-temperature gas-cooled reactors, molten salt cooled reactors and liquid metal cooled reactors.
- Advanced light-water reactors designs are already commercially available with additional under construction. Small modular reactors are expected to be available by the mid-2020s. Advanced non-light water reactors are being developed to complement the suite of nuclear generating options available in the future.

ELECTRICITY MARKETS

- In the competitive markets where electricity is bought and sold, there is an inherent flaw in the price signals necessary to encourage investment in new electric generating capacity which is forcing premature closure of well-run nuclear power plants.
- Furthermore, electricity markets do not properly designate value to the unique set of attributes that nuclear power brings as a source of fuel: carbon-free, baseload electricity that is always on regardless of weather conditions. Our energy and environmental policies must ensure that existing nuclear energy facilities are preserved, though policy solutions may differ regionally.

SAFETY

- The nuclear energy industry is one of the few industries with a security program that is regulated by the federal government. The independent U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission holds nuclear power plants to the highest safety and security standards of any American industry.

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- Multiple, redundant layers of physical security and high levels of operational performance protect plant workers, the public and the environment.

USED FUEL

- Used fuel is and has been safely managed, stored and secured for decades without any incidents in robust containers regulated by the NRC. It has also been safely transported throughout the country in the same fashion. Consolidated interim storage facilities, sited in willing host communities and licensed by the NRC, represent one path forward for used fuel until a permanent repository is built.
- The NRC has concluded that “spent fuel can be safely managed in spent fuel pools in the short-term timeframe, and dry casks during the short-term, long-term, and indefinite time frames.” Eventually the United States may follow France, Japan, England and other countries in recycling used fuel to extract energy and placing the remaining product in a repository.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

- The United States must recognize that the domestic nuclear industry can best maintain a leadership role in nuclear technology development and contribute to worldwide safety enhancements by designing and building new nuclear plants.
- U.S. equipment and technology exports enable other nations looking to start or expand their nuclear industries to deploy the safest technologies.

NATIONAL SECURITY

- Nuclear energy plays a critical role in keeping the United States safe. Energy independence is a key part of our country’s national security, and nuclear energy plays a significant role in an energy independent future.
- By limiting our dependence on foreign energy sources, a strong nuclear fleet increases the security of the country and makes us less vulnerable to international energy shocks outside our control.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- The country depends on the uninterrupted availability of affordable energy sources. As an always-on source of energy 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, nuclear is critical to maintaining our reliable electricity supply.
- While other energy sources can be put under great strain during periods of severe weather and become unreliable, nuclear power is always running, limiting the possibility of energy brownouts or blackouts.