



June 12, 2020

The Honorable Adam S. Boehler
U.S. International Development Finance Corporation
1100 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20527

Nuclear Matters Coalition Statement to DFC

Dear Mr. Boehler,

Nuclear Matters is a national coalition that works to inform the public and policymakers about the benefits of nuclear energy. We are a diverse community of over 500,000 advocates that support solutions encouraging current and future nuclear energy use, articulating the positive impact of nuclear power on issues such as public health and environmental equity.

On behalf of our 500,000+ grassroots advocates, we strongly support the recommendation of the Nuclear Fuel Working Group (NFWG) to restore America's competitive nuclear energy advantage and remove the Development Finance Corporation's (DFC) legacy prohibition on support for nuclear energy projects for three key reasons:

First, as the second-largest source of low-carbon global electricity supply,¹ nuclear energy is one of the most effective ways to provide clean, zero-carbon energy solutions to millions around the world. Battling global climate change and encouraging the use of zero-carbon energy sources are top priorities for our grassroots advocates. The DFC's change could facilitate access to always-on, carbon-free baseload power to developing nations, bolstering their clean energy economies and asserting the U.S. as a leader in the global fight to lower carbon emissions. For many developing countries struggling to meet their clean energy goals, new nuclear technology like small modular reactors (SMRs), next-generation advanced reactors and micro-reactors can be a solution, providing reliable, zero-carbon energy to power their development.

Second, allowing the U.S. to become involved with nuclear energy projects in other countries is critical to maintaining U.S. nuclear energy leadership. We agree with the NFWG: America needs a broad-based approach to exporting civil nuclear technology to compete with state-owned enterprises from China and Russia. Not doing so forfeits global leadership in nuclear energy to these countries, who use civil nuclear energy as a geopolitical tool to build soft power and lasting influence over developing nations for hundreds of years. Regaining U.S. nuclear energy leadership is imperative for our national security and foreign policy. Doing so strengthens our domestic economy as well. The U.S. Department of Commerce estimates that within 10 years, the global nuclear market value will be somewhere between \$500 and \$740 billion. For each \$1 billion of nuclear energy exports, the U.S. generates between 5,000 and 10,000 jobs at home.

¹ International Energy Agency, "Nuclear Power in a Clean Energy System," May 2019.

Third, safe and reliable nuclear energy is vital to protecting global public health as one of the world's largest sources of carbon-free energy. Studies have repeatedly shown that the emissions caused by burning fossil fuels is directly correlated with increased incidence of asthma, stroke, cardiovascular disease, and other fatal health issues. We have seen this alarming theory come to fruition during the coronavirus pandemic: a study by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health found that people with COVID-19 who live in U.S. regions with high levels of air pollution are more likely to die from the disease than people who live in less polluted areas.² We know that pollution from fossil fuels in the developing world is a global health crisis. For emerging nations that require steady, always-on energy, nuclear energy can allow for economic growth and development without causing negative health impacts.

Our hundreds of thousands of partners and advocates are committed to protecting and preserving the U.S. nuclear energy industry, which will be strengthened by the DFC's recommendation to remove the legacy prohibition on support for nuclear energy projects.

Sincerely,
Nuclear Matters

² "Exposure to air pollution and COVID-19 mortality in the United States: A nationwide cross-sectional study;" Xiao Wu, Rachael C. Nethery, et al; Harvard University, April 24, 2020.