November 20, 2017

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

The Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors’ National Association (SMACNA) is supported by more than 3,500 construction firms engaged in industrial, commercial, residential, architectural and specialty sheet metal and air conditioning construction throughout the United States. On behalf of our membership I express support for S. 512, The Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act of 2017, introduced by Senators Barrasso joined by Senators Whitehouse, Inhofe, Booker, Crapo, Fischer, Moore-Capito and Manchin as original cosponsors. S. 512 recently passed out of the Environment and Public Works Committee with overwhelming support by a 18-3 demonstrating its strong bipartisan support.

SMACNA appreciates the leadership given national nuclear energy policy over many years by Senators Barrasso, Whitehouse and many of the cosponsors most recently represented by S. 512. Further, our decades of experience on the frontlines of nuclear powered energy construction only reinforces our enthusiasm for The Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act. The legislation’s improved approach to licensing fusion and fission systems would enable the processing of licenses for new advanced nuclear reactors in an industry that provides electricity to millions of people. S. 512, would also promote transparency within the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and step-up the efficiency of uranium regulation and improves the assessment of fuel rod technology. As amended in Committee, S. 512 includes a series of changes to ensure that advanced reactor developers can qualify for federal financial support and to encourage more private investment in research and development of advanced technology. The legislation also directs the NRC to develop a licensing process for advanced nuclear reactors within two years that building upon the existing regulatory framework, and to complete by 2023 a “technology-inclusive licensing framework” for optional use by advanced reactor designers.

SMACNA’s membership includes thousands of firms specializing in energy facility contracting, facility energy management and residential, commercial, public and industrial energy efficiency. Based upon our extensive experience in this energy contracting area we strongly support S. 512, The Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act of 2017 and urge its Senate passage.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Stanley E. Kolbe, Jr.
Director, Legislative Affairs
SMACNA