

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, and Members of the Appropriations Committees:

On behalf of our members and mining-impacted communities throughout the West, we write to express our opposition to the \$1.5 billion Congressional Budget Request (Budget Request) in the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) for establishing a new reserve for domestically produced uranium.

This Budget Request is no more than a bailout for the foreign-owned uranium industry.

Only five companies produced uranium from seven domestic facilities in 2018, according to the Energy Information Association. None are based in the United States. Energy Fuels Resources (Energy Fuels), a publicly traded Canadian company, advocated for removing protections from the Bears Ears National Monument to benefit their own nearby uranium mill as well as claims they sold in exchange for a large stake in the purchasing company, enCore Energy. Energy Fuels has an interest in almost $\frac{1}{3}$ of active mining claims within the original boundaries of the Monument, many of which now fall outside the Monument's boundaries.

Energy Fuels and Ur-Energy, another Canadian-based company, petitioned the Commerce Department last year to impose quotas on uranium imports by falsely raising the specter of national security concerns. Under pressure from nuclear power utilities unwilling to pay a higher price for lower quality U.S. uranium, the Trump Administration denied the petition and instead created the United States Nuclear Fuel Working Group—the next target to which these companies would later pitch their bailout. This Budget Request takes the form of both taxpayer subsidies and government manufactured demand to appease nuclear utilities' cost concerns.

Trade restrictions, uranium subsidies, and artificial demand can make bad policy, a view shared across the political spectrum. Protections for iconic American landscapes like Bears Ears and the Grand Canyon enjoy bipartisan support. Both of these sites are sacred to several Native peoples.

And yet, the DOE's Budget Request lines the pockets of foreign mining companies. It reinforces this Administration's controversial decision to add uranium to its list of so-called critical minerals. This request also lays bare the toxic waste legacy left from uranium mining.

Mining impacted indigenous communities will likely suffer the most from this Budget Request. Tribal communities have traditionally not received meaningful consultation in the siting and operation of uranium mines. A recent University of New Mexico study found that more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of over 700 Navajo Nation women tested had high concentrations of uranium in their bodies. These impacts to their lives and health continue to persist.

This Budget Request will further these impacts upon communities with existing and potential new mines permitted through an ad hoc mess of a regulatory structure that fails to protect

scarce Western groundwater. The previous Administration had been well on its way to addressing the need for new, protective uranium recovery standards under EPA's purview. The current Administration withdrew those long overdue proposed standards and we now face the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's likely attempt to weaken their already grossly inadequate standards.

The toxic legacy left from our Cold War efforts to mine uranium has also left mining impacted communities and taxpayers with the financial burdens of cleanup. Uranium mines pay no federal reclamation fee nor federal royalty in exchange for the profits they make from lands that belong to the American public. The President's Budget Request only furthers that injustice while artificially propping up polluting, non-U.S. companies that are inadequately regulated at U.S. taxpayers' expense.

For the above reasons, we respectfully urge your Committees to deny the Budget Request.

Sincerely,

Advocacy Coalition of the Telluride
Arizona Trail Association
Atlanta Grandmothers for Peace
Beyond Nuclear
Black Hills Clean Water Alliance
Cape Cod branch Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Biological Diversity
Chispa Arizona
Citizens Awareness Network
Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping (CARD)
Citizens' Resistance at Fermi 2 (CRAFT)
Clean Water Action
Clean Water Action NJ
Council on Intelligent Energy & Conservation Policy (CIECP)
Don't Waste Arizona
Earth Ethics, Inc.
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Endangered Species Coalition
Environment America
Environmental Justice Task Force of the WNY Peace Center
Environmental Protection Information Center
Fellowship of Reconciliation USA
Fellowship of Reconciliation USA
Friends of the Earth
Georgia WAND

Grand Canyon Trust
Grand Riverkeeper Labrador, Inc.
Green State Solutions
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
Interfaith Moral Action on Climate
Klamath Forest Alliance
LEAD Agency, Inc.
Los Padres ForestWatch
Malach Consulting
Mount Horeb Citizens Against Water Flouridation
Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment
Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment
Native Community Action Council
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force
New Mexico Environmental Law Center
New Mexico Environmental Law Center
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light
Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS)
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Nuclear Watch South
Office of Life, Peace, Justice & Creation, Catholic Charities Gallup
On Behalf Of Planet Earth
Patagonia Area Resource Alliance
Peace Action WI
Pilgrim Place
Redwood Alliance
Rock Creek Alliance
Safe Energy Rights Group (SEnRG)
San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace
Save Our Cabinets
Sheep Mountain Alliance
Shut Down Indian Point Now
Snake River Alliance
St Thomas Wesley United Church
Stand Up/Save Lives Campaign
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)
Sustainable Energy & Economic Development (SEED) Coalition
the Nuclear Resister
The Wilderness Society
Three Mile Island Alert, Inc.
Toledo Coalition for Safe Energy
Tri-Valley CAREs
Uranium Watch

Uranium Watch
Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance
Western New York Environmental Alliance
Western NY Peace Center
Western Organization of Resource Councils
Western Watersheds Project
The Sierra Club
Clean Water Action
Los Padres ForestWatch