

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of The United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Mr. President:

In your July 12, 2019 Memorandum, you directed the U.S. Nuclear Fuel Working Group (NFWG) to “develop recommendations for reviving and expanding domestic nuclear fuel production.” Right now, U.S. uranium mining is at the lowest levels measured since the 1940s, and the remaining producing uranium companies are months away from making the difficult decision to shut down production altogether. We urge you to take bold and immediate action to revive and expand the domestic uranium industry. In doing so, critical workforces and infrastructure will be preserved, and they will remain a key productive component to U.S. national and energy security.

While the United States was once a global leader in uranium production and is home to vast uranium deposits, the domestic industry is currently supplying less than one percent of the uranium needed to power the U.S. nuclear reactor fleet. It is critical that you address the impact of excessive uranium imports from government or state-controlled entities located in countries that are not aligned with U.S. interests. We are now on the verge of losing our domestic uranium mining and conversion capacity, jeopardizing future supply for America’s nuclear navy and other defense programs. We also risk becoming entirely dependent on uranium imports to power 20 percent of the electricity generated in the United States. Against this backdrop, the Department of the Interior has rightfully designated uranium as a critical mineral essential to the economic and national security of the United States under Executive Order 13817.

As you are aware, the memorandum creating the NFWG recognized that price-distorting uranium imports from state-backed entities are an issue of national security. These price-insensitive imports flooding uranium markets create an uneven global playing field on which free market uranium companies in the U.S. are unable to compete. Between 2010 and 2017, uranium production from Russia or countries within Russia’s sphere of influence (RSOI) increased 27% in the face of plummeting market prices while U.S. production fell 71% in response to the weak market. RSOI imports averaged over 40% of U.S. reactor loads over that time period. Russia has used control over the global uranium and nuclear industries to leverage their own foreign policy objectives over the U.S. Chinese state-owned companies are acquiring large uranium mines that constitute significant free world supply in Africa as part of the “one belt one road” initiative. This effectively cuts off access to free-world supply in the event of a significant supply disruption, the risk of which constitutes a strategic vulnerability for United States.

Unless swift action is taken to provide an immediate boost to the domestic uranium industry, we will lose existing uranium production capacity that will take decades to replace. This poses

unacceptable risk to our energy and national security. Thank you considering our views, and we look forward to working with you save this vital industry.

Sincerely,



Liz Cheney
Member of Congress



Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



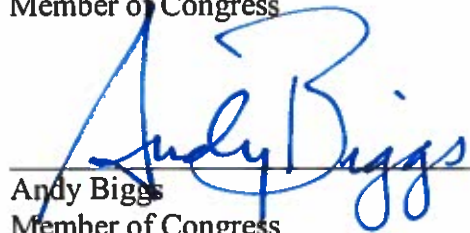
Don Young
Member of Congress



Paul Gosar
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Doug Lamborn
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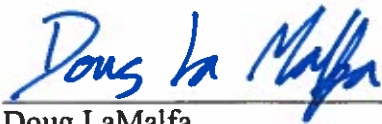
Kelly Armstrong
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