

colleague on the Health Subcommittee, BRETT GUTHRIE.

Team physicians and other licensed sports medicine professionals often travel with their athletes to away games and other sporting events outside of their home State. When providing care to an injured player during the game or in the locker room afterwards, they are often doing so at great personal and professional risk. If they are sued, their home State license could be in jeopardy, and their malpractice insurance may not provide coverage.

This commonsense bill would provide clarity first by stating that their liability insurance shall cover them outside their home State for limited services within the scope of their practice, subject to any related premium adjustments.

Second, to the extent that the healthcare professional is licensed under the requirements of their home State to provide certain services to an athlete or team, they shall be treated as satisfying corresponding licensure requirements of a secondary State in these narrowly defined instances.

H.R. 921 has almost 200 bipartisan cosponsors and is supported by a wide range of professional medical associations as well as amateur and professional sports associations. I urge my colleagues to join me in support.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, September 9, 2016.

Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: I write with respect to H.R. 921, the "Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act," which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions within H.R. 921 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge our committee from further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 921 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 921 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 921.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2016.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 921, the "Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act of 2015." As you noted, there are provisions of the bill that fall within the Committee on the Judiciary's Rule X jurisdiction.

I appreciate your willingness to forgo consideration of H.R. 921, and I agree that your decision is not a waiver of any of the Committee on the Judiciary's jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward. In addition, I understand that the Committee reserves the right to seek the appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and you will have my support for any such request.

I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 921.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 921, the Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act of 2015. The bill's sponsors, Congressman RICHMOND and Congressman GUTHRIE, were able to fix a particular problem with a targeted solution in this legislation.

As amended, this bill will ensure that sports medicine professionals who contract with a team are covered by their medical professional liability insurance while they are traveling with their teams. Medical licensure is State specific, so when a provider travels with a team, they are often technically practicing without a license and without their medical liability insurance. Obviously this is a problem.

This bill solves that problem unique to sports medicine professionals since they travel around the country with their teams. The legislation provides that any medical malpractice incident occurring under the care of a traveling team sports medicine professional would be treated as if it occurred in the professional's primary State of practice rather than the State in which the game is being played. This bill does not allow these providers to practice beyond the scope of their licenses or to treat athletes anywhere other than the field or the court.

This legislation will also provide certainty to players that malpractice insurance will apply if they need to file a lawsuit after receiving improper care. I am pleased that the sponsors were able to work with the Energy and Commerce Committee and stakeholders to ensure that this bill achieves the right balance.

I want to thank Congressman GUTHRIE and Congressman RICHMOND from Louisiana for working on this bill. I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes." I

just, again, want to thank the sponsors for fixing a problem that clearly needed fixing. I support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this worthwhile bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 921, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1815

ADVANCED NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4979) to foster civilian research and development of advanced nuclear energy technologies and enhance the licensing and commercial deployment of such technologies, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4979

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Advanced Nuclear Technology Development Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Nuclear energy generates approximately 20 percent of the total electricity and approximately 60 percent of the carbon-free electricity of the United States.

(2) Nuclear power plants operate consistently at a 90 percent capacity factor, and provide consumers and businesses with reliable and affordable electricity.

(3) Nuclear power plants generate billions of dollars in national economic activity through nationwide procurements and provide thousands of Americans with high paying jobs contributing substantially to the local economies in communities where they operate.

(4) The United States commercial nuclear industry must continue to lead the international civilian nuclear marketplace, because it is one of our most powerful national security tools, guaranteeing the safe, secure, and exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy.

(5) Maintaining the Nation's nuclear fleet of commercial light water reactors and expanding the use of new advanced reactor designs would support continued production of reliable baseload electricity and maintain United States global leadership in nuclear power.

(6) Nuclear fusion technology also has the potential to generate electricity with significantly increased safety performance and no radioactive waste.

(7) The development of advanced reactor designs would benefit from a performance-based, risk-informed, efficient, and cost-effective regulatory framework with defined milestones and the opportunity for applicants to demonstrate progress through Nuclear Regulatory Commission approval.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR.**—The term “advanced nuclear reactor” means—

(A) a nuclear fission reactor with significant improvements over the most recent generation of nuclear fission reactors, which may include inherent safety features, lower waste yields, greater fuel utilization, superior reliability, resistance to proliferation, and increased thermal efficiency; or

(B) a nuclear fusion reactor.

(2) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of Energy.

(3) **LICENSING.**—The term “licensing” means NRC activities related to reviewing applications for licenses, permits, and design certifications, and requests for any other regulatory approval for nuclear reactors within the responsibilities of the NRC under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.

(4) **NATIONAL LABORATORY.**—The term “National Laboratory” has the meaning given that term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

(5) **NRC.**—The term “NRC” means the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy.

SEC. 4. AGENCY COORDINATION.

The NRC and the Department shall enter into a memorandum of understanding regarding the following topics:

(1) **TECHNICAL EXPERTISE.**—Ensuring that the Department has sufficient technical expertise to support the civilian nuclear industry’s timely research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of safe, innovative advanced reactor technology and the NRC has sufficient technical expertise to support the evaluation of applications for licenses, permits, and design certifications, and other requests for regulatory approval for advanced reactors.

(2) **MODELING AND SIMULATION.**—The use of computers and software codes to calculate the behavior and performance of advanced reactors based on mathematical models of their physical behavior.

(3) **FACILITIES.**—Ensuring that the Department maintains and develops the facilities to enable the civilian nuclear industry’s timely research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of safe, innovative reactor technology and ensuring that the NRC has access to such facilities, as needed.

SEC. 5. REPORTING TO CONGRESS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the National Laboratories, relevant Federal agencies, and other stakeholders, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Committee Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report assessing the capabilities of the Department to authorize, host, and oversee privately proposed and funded experimental reactors.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—Such report shall address—

(1) the safety review and oversight capabilities of the Department, including options to leverage expertise from the NRC and the National Laboratories;

(2) options to regulate Department hosted, privately proposed and funded experimental reactors;

(3) potential sites capable of hosting the activities described in subsection (a);

(4) the efficacy of the available contractual mechanisms of the Department to partner with the private sector and other Federal agencies, including cooperative research and development agreements, strategic partnership projects, and agreements for commercializing technology;

(5) the Federal Government’s liability with respect to the disposal of low-level radioactive waste, spent nuclear fuel, or high-level radioactive waste, as defined by section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101);

(6) the impact on the Nation’s aggregate inventory of low-level radioactive waste, spent nuclear fuel, or high-level radioactive waste;

(7) potential cost structures relating to physical security, decommissioning, liability, and other long-term project costs; and

(8) other challenges or considerations identified by the Secretary.

(c) **UPDATES.**—The Secretary shall update relevant provisions of the report submitted under subsection (a) every 2 years and submit that update to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Committee Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

SEC. 6. ADVANCED REACTOR REGULATORY FRAMEWORK.

(a) **PLAN REQUIRED.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the NRC shall transmit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a plan for developing an efficient, risk-informed, technology-neutral framework for advanced reactor licensing. The plan shall evaluate the following subjects, consistent with the NRC’s role in protecting public health and safety and common defense and security:

(1) The unique aspects of advanced reactor licensing and any associated legal, regulatory, and policy issues the NRC will need to address to develop a framework for licensing advanced reactors.

(2) Options for licensing advanced reactors under existing NRC regulations in title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, a proposed new regulatory framework, or a combination of these approaches.

(3) Options to expedite and streamline the licensing of advanced reactors, including opportunities to minimize the time from application submittal to final NRC licensing decision and minimize the delays that may result from any necessary amendments or supplements to applications.

(4) Options to expand the incorporation of consensus-based codes and standards into the advanced reactor regulatory framework to minimize time to completion and provide flexibility in implementation.

(5) Options to make the advanced reactor licensing framework more predictable. This evaluation should consider opportunities to improve the process by which application review milestones are established and maintained.

(6) Options to allow applicants to use phased review processes under which the NRC issues approvals that do not require the NRC to re-review previously approved information. This evaluation shall consider the NRC’s ability to review and conditionally approve partial applications, early design information, and submittals that contain design criteria and processes to be used to de-

velop information to support a later phase of the design review.

(7) The extent to which NRC action or modification of policy is needed to implement any part of the plan required by this subsection.

(8) The role of licensing advanced reactors within NRC long-term strategic resource planning, staffing, and funding levels.

(9) Options to provide cost-sharing financial structures for license applicants in a phased licensing process.

(b) **COORDINATION AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT REQUIRED.**—In developing the plan required by subsection (a), the NRC shall seek input from the Department, the nuclear industry, and other public stakeholders.

(c) **COST AND SCHEDULE ESTIMATE.**—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include proposed cost estimates, budgets, and specific milestones for implementing the advanced reactor regulatory framework by September 30, 2019.

(d) **DESIGN CERTIFICATION STATUS.**—In the NRC’s first budget request after the acceptance of any design certification application for an advanced nuclear reactor, and annually thereafter, the NRC shall provide the status of performance metrics and milestone schedules. The budget request shall include a plan to correct or recover from any milestone schedule delays, including delays because of NRC’s inability to commit resources for its review of the design certification applications.

SEC. 7. USER FEES AND ANNUAL CHARGES.

Section 6101(c)(2)(A) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 2214(c)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of clause (iii);

(2) by striking the period at the end of clause (iv) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) for fiscal years ending before October 1, 2020, amounts appropriated to the Commission for activities related to the development of regulatory infrastructure for advanced nuclear reactor technologies.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today in support of H.R. 4979, the Advanced Nuclear Technology Development Act of 2016, which I introduced with Congressman MCNERNEY earlier this year. We are very excited the bill received unanimous support of the full Energy and Commerce Committee.

The next generation of the nuclear industry needs to start now, with Congress ensuring that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is able to provide

the certainty that the private sector needs to invest in innovative technologies. Nuclear power is currently 20 percent of our national energy portfolio, and it must remain a vital part of our energy mix. As the United States looks to the future, more energy will be needed, and nuclear power provides a reliable, clean baseload power option, currently providing approximately 63 percent of total carbon-free energy.

It is imperative that we develop the right regulatory framework so advanced nuclear technologies can be developed, licensed, and constructed here in the United States. If we miss the opportunity to establish a safe, predictable regulatory framework for these technologies, private innovators and entrepreneurs will take their investment and scientists to our competitors in the global market.

H.R. 4979 requires that NRC establish a regulatory framework for issuing licenses for advanced nuclear reactor technology and also requires that NRC submit a schedule for implementation of the framework by 2019. Safety in nuclear is the number one goal, and this regulatory framework ensures that NRC has the opportunity to develop a framework to safely regulate the future technologies of the nuclear industry.

H.R. 4979 also requires that the Department of Energy and the NRC collaborate in developing new nuclear technology. DOE and its National Laboratories provide opportunities to test new private sector nuclear technologies. This bill would direct DOE to look at options for public-private partnerships between the DOE and the private sector companies interested in investing in the future of nuclear. There is also a role for NRC in this space because these testing opportunities may allow for demonstration of technologies that NRC has not commercially licensed for over the last 40 years.

Investment in new technologies is already happening, with approximately 50 companies in this country investing over \$1 billion to develop the next generation of nuclear power. That is why we introduced H.R. 4979. It is time for Congress to ensure that NRC provides a framework so that innovators and investors can prepare to apply for licensing technologies. Passing this legislation is key to ensure that the United States remains a leader in the nuclear industry, which is vital for both our electricity mix and our national security.

I want to thank all of the cosponsors of this bill, as well as Chairman UPTON and Congressman MCNERNEY and all of the staff and stakeholders for their work on this important legislation.

I urge full support from my colleagues for H.R. 4979.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4979, the Advanced Nuclear Technology Development Act of 2016, introduced by our

colleagues Mr. LATTI of Ohio and Mr. MCNERNEY of California. As subcommittee ranker of Environment and the Economy that reports to the standing committee of Energy and Commerce, I am proud to support this legislation.

H.R. 4979 would require the Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to enter into a memorandum of understanding to ensure technical expertise is maintained to assist in the development of advanced nuclear technology. The legislation would also require the NRC to establish a framework for issuing licenses for advanced reactor technology.

Nuclear technology has been largely unchanged for decades. Having our experts coordinate is the best way to support the private sector's development of new technology that may advance the industry in terms of waste, in terms of efficiency, and in terms of safety.

Regardless of Members' position on nuclear energy, I believe there is unanimous agreement that there is no compromising when it comes to safety. We need high standards for safety, and I believe and hope that the enhanced cooperation between DOE and NRC required by this bill will help put safety front and center for the development of advanced nuclear technology.

I congratulate Mr. LATTI and Mr. MCNERNEY for their work on this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank my friend and colleague from Texas, Chairman BURGESS, for yielding me time.

H.R. 4979, the Advanced Nuclear Technology Development Act of 2016, gives direction to cooperative civilian nuclear energy R&D and provides regulatory changes to advance commercial innovation in the American nuclear power industry.

I thank the chairman of the committee on Energy and Commerce, my good friend, FRED UPTON, for his leadership and for working with me on this shared legislation.

I am encouraged by the strong bipartisan support that has emerged for nuclear energy innovation, beginning with the Science, Space, and Technology Committee's House-passed Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act, H.R. 4084. That bill is part of both the energy policy and NDAA conferences going on right now.

H.R. 4084, sponsored by the Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Energy Chairman RANDY WEBER and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, already has passed the House this Congress with strong bipartisan support. The reinforcing legislation we consider today continues this

bipartisan work. I thank the sponsors of today's bill, Representatives BOB LATTI and JERRY MCNERNEY, for their initiative on this issue.

Advanced nuclear energy technology provides an opportunity to make reliable, emission-free electricity available throughout the modern and developing world. The Science, Space, and Technology Committee has held many hearings and worked steadily on nuclear innovation since December 2014.

I thank Chairman UPTON, in particular, for being willing to incorporate important provisions in today's bill that were developed by the Science, Space, and Technology Committee through our continued work on nuclear R&D in our jurisdiction. I also appreciate Chairman UPTON's acceptance of language to ensure that the Department of Energy focuses on research and development that enables private sector commercialization efforts.

Nuclear power has been a proven source of safe and emission-free electricity for over half a century. America's strategic investments in advanced nuclear reactor technology can help create economic growth here and an improved quality of life around the globe.

Unfortunately, government red tape has stalled the ability to move innovative technology to the market. This legislation requires the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to provide a plan for developing a more efficient way to regulate new nuclear technology.

In July 2015, the chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission testified before the Science, Space, and Technology Committee on this very issue. Congress must take action to ensure that the NRC reviews, assists, and approves advanced reactor technologies. If not, the United States will be forced to import nuclear technologies from overseas. America must lead the world in nuclear technology for our energy security and national security.

I thank the sponsors for their work on this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY), a friend, colleague, and fellow engineer on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for that introduction. I also want to thank Mr. LATTI for his work on this. He moved forward and asked me to participate. I thought it was a good plan, so I did.

As our country works to mitigate the effects of climate change and prepare for the energy challenges of the future, we must now move to develop low- and zero-carbon energy sources. This means making investments into R&D, training the scientists, engineers, and mathematicians of tomorrow, and ensuring there is an appropriate regulatory and investment framework that will foster growth as new technologies become commercially viable.

Nuclear energy has been a reliable source of energy, producing a significant amount of our Nation's energy supply, and it will likely do so into the future. But building plants and developing new technologies takes time, and we need to take steps to ensure the regulatory tools, including safety and reliability, are in place to meet potential increases in nuclear power capacity.

H.R. 4979 is a commonsense approach that provides a pathway for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to establish the proper regulatory framework to facilitate, verify, and permit advanced reactor technologies. This bill also fosters increased collaborations between the NRC and the National Laboratories to provide opportunities to test new nuclear energy technologies and bolster public-private partnerships.

The provisions in this bill are aligned with the NRC's fiscal year 2017 budget request.

As we move forward toward a low-carbon sustainable energy economy, nuclear energy has the potential to play an instrumental role in meeting both State and national goals. Our current nuclear reactors use light water reactor technology, but there are advances that move toward completely different technology, including small modular reactors that can increase efficiency and safety while reducing the permitting and construction requirements that have hampered the development of new nuclear plants in recent years.

The bill passed unanimously out of the Energy and Commerce Committee and has support from nearly a dozen organizations, and I urge its passage.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4979, the Advanced Nuclear Technology Development Act of 2016, to talk about what it means for our Nation's energy infrastructure needs.

Energy independence is a critical goal for the United States as the sources of energy available in this country grow and become safer. It has been proven that nuclear energy is an extremely safe and viable option with the only new nuclear plant in 30 years being built just up the river from my district. There has been a considerable amount of research and development that has gone in to nuclear energy, and it accounts for 60 percent of the clean energy produced in the United States.

Under this bill, those hurdles to design and development will be lowered to ensure that the option to produce clean, viable energy that is stable and sustainable remains a possibility.

Growing a closer partnership between the Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will help to chart an energy-independent path for our Nation as we seek new possibili-

ties and alternatives to power our way to a better future. This legislation will knock down those walls to innovation and will provide an opportunity to develop advanced reactor designs that could be vital to our energy infrastructure.

I applaud my good friend, Mr. LATTI, for his work on this issue and the work of the Energy and Commerce Committee to address these reforms to the nuclear energy field and energy independence.

I urge passage of this important legislation.

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Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I will just again reinforce what I think is a strong benefit here: bringing into the industry the efforts for resourcefulness, for efficiency, and for safety, all very key elements to this sector of the energy economy. The bill bears great benefits for the consumers of this country. I strongly support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the passage of this bill and the future of our nuclear technology industry. I urge an "aye" vote.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, September 8, 2016.

Hon. FRED UPTON,

Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 4979, the "Advanced Nuclear Technology Development Act of 2016," which your Committee ordered reported on May 18, 2016.

H.R. 4979 contains provisions within the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will forego action on the bill. This is being done on the basis of our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,

Washington, DC, September 8, 2016.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,

Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you for your letter concerning H.R. 4979, the "Advanced Nuclear Technology Development Act of 2016."

As you noted, H.R. 4979 contains provisions within the Committee on Science, Space,

and Technology's Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your willingness to forgo action on the bill in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, and I agree that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4979, the Advanced Nuclear Technology Development Act, and to talk about what it means for our nation's energy infrastructure needs.

Energy independence is a critical goal for the United States as the sources of energy available in this country grow and become safer.

It's been proven that nuclear energy is an extremely safe and viable option with the only new nuclear plant in 30 years being built just up the river from my district.

There has been a considerable amount of research and development that has gone in to the nuclear energy and it accounts for 60 percent of the clean energy produced in the United States.

Under this bill, those hurdles to design and development will be lowered to ensure that the option to produce clean, viable energy that is stable and sustainable remains a possibility.

Growing a closer partnership between the Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will help to chart an energy independence path for our nation as we seek new possibilities and alternatives to power our way to a better future.

This legislation will knock down those walls to innovation and will provide an opportunity to develop advanced reactor designs that could be vital to our energy infrastructure.

I applaud my good friend Mr. LATTI for his work on this issue and the work of the Energy and Commerce Committee to address these reforms to the nuclear energy field and energy independence and I urge passage of this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4979, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 847, by the yeas and nays;