



May 3, 2016

The Honorable Susan Rice  
National Security Advisor to the President  
The White House  
Washington DC 20500

Dear Ms. Rice:

The undersigned organizations are writing to express our deep concern over informed reports that the White House is contemplating the elimination of the position of the Director for Nuclear Energy Policy at the National Security Council.

This position was created in 2012 on the basis of a recommendation by the U.S. Civil Nuclear Trade Advisory Committee (CINTAC) to provide a pivotal whole of government approach to critical strategic commercial and national security considerations relevant to the trillion-dollar global nuclear energy export market where U.S. companies are competing with government-owned enterprises.

The Director of Nuclear Energy Policy has been crucial in creating coherence in U.S. policy on civil nuclear issues, enhancing the competitive position of the U.S. civil nuclear industry and furthering U.S. nuclear safety, security and nonproliferation objectives. It is essential to ensure interagency coordination on cross-cutting issues between the Departments of Commerce, State, Energy, and Treasury, the U.S. Trade Representative and the Export-Import Bank. Further, it is critical that these functions reside in an independent position that has advocacy authority for civil nuclear energy, thereby avoiding the inherent tension that would exist if these functions were bundled with responsibility for non-proliferation and weapons of mass destruction control as proposed by some.

In 2015 alone, the Director of Nuclear Energy Policy position was vital in providing interagency leadership across-the-board ranging from the entry into force of the global nuclear liability regime (Convention on Supplementary Compensation), to the extension of the China and Republic of Korea civil nuclear trade agreements, to a breakthrough in U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation that has set the stage for a potential major order for U.S. technology with substantial return in jobs and economic benefits.

Given the enormity of the continuing international trade, environmental and national security challenges inherent in the global nuclear energy arena as evidenced by the Nuclear Security Summit and 2015 Paris Climate Conference and the consequences for  
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jobs, economic competitiveness, energy and national security, and the environment, it is our hope that you will work to ensure that the Director of Nuclear Energy Policy position is sustained.

We would be pleased to meet with you to this end to discuss this important matter further.

Sincerely,

United States Nuclear Infrastructure Council      American Nuclear Society

Third Way

Nuclear Energy Institute