

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To improve nuclear energy policy.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—111th Cong., 1st Sess.

(no.) _____

(title) _____

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by _____

Viz:

1 At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

2 **SEC. 312. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE STRA-**
3 **TEGIC ROLE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

5 (1) nuclear energy is a strategic technology and
6 should be recognized for—

7 (A) providing clean and secure domestic
8 energy for the United States; and

9 (B) reducing greenhouse gases;

10 (2) the use and expansion of nuclear energy
11 technology is essential for—

1 (A) the production of electricity and other
2 industrial applications; and

3 (B) the reduction of greenhouse gas emis-
4 sions;

5 (3) it is the continuing obligation of the Federal
6 Government to provide for the safe disposal of spent
7 nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, includ-
8 ing the development of any analysis or assessment
9 that is required to establish a sustainable, long-term
10 program for the management of spent nuclear fuel
11 and high-level radioactive waste;

12 (4) spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive
13 waste should be stored in a limited number of se-
14 cure, centralized facilities;

15 (5) to encourage State and local support for the
16 establishment of centralized spent nuclear fuel and
17 high-level radioactive waste storage facilities, the
18 Federal Government should expedite the conduct of
19 a sustainable long-term management program;

20 (6) the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel
21 may—

22 (A) reduce the burden on geological reposi-
23 tories for ultimate waste disposal; and

24 (B) provide additional fuel for nuclear re-
25 actors; and

1 “(e) ADVANCED FUEL RECYCLING PROCESS DEVEL-
2 OPMENT.—

3 “(1) DEFINITION OF ADVANCED FUEL RECY-
4 CLING PROCESS.—In this subsection through sub-
5 section (g), the term ‘advanced fuel recycling proc-
6 ess’ means an integrated, proliferation-resistant,
7 spent nuclear fuel recycling or transmutation process
8 that—

9 “(A) does not separate pure plutonium;

10 “(B) reduces the burden on geological re-
11 positories for ultimate waste disposal;

12 “(C) minimizes environmental and public
13 health and safety impacts; and

14 “(D) is an alternative to reprocessing tech-
15 nologies deployed prior to the date of enactment
16 of this subsection.

17 “(2) DESIGN, CRITERIA, AND EVALUATIONS.—

18 In addition to the activities authorized under sub-
19 section (a), the Secretary shall—

20 “(A) complete the development and testing
21 of a complete and integrated process flowsheet
22 for all steps involved in an advanced fuel recy-
23 cling process;

1 “(B) characterize the waste streams result-
2 ing from all steps in the advanced fuel recycling
3 process identified under subparagraph (A);

4 “(C) develop waste treatment processes
5 and designs for disposal facilities for waste
6 streams characterized under subparagraph (B);

7 “(D) on completion of sufficient technical
8 progress in the program, as evaluated under
9 subsection (g)—

10 “(i) develop a generic environmental
11 impact statement for the technologies de-
12 veloped under this subsection; and

13 “(ii) conduct design and engineering
14 work sufficient to develop firm cost esti-
15 mates with respect to the development of
16 advanced fuel recycling processes; and

17 “(E) cooperate with the Nuclear Regu-
18 latory Commission in making facilities of the
19 Department available to the Commission for
20 purposes of the Commission carrying out inde-
21 pendent, confirmatory research as part of the li-
22 censing process for facilities constructed or
23 used under the program.

24 “(f) REGULATORY STANDARDS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Nuclear Regulatory
2 Commission shall have licensing and related regu-
3 latory authority under the Atomic Energy Act of
4 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) over facilities that
5 use an advanced fuel recycling process.

6 “(2) REVISION OF APPLICABLE STANDARDS.—

7 “(A) NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMIS-
8 SION.—The Nuclear Regulatory Commission
9 shall establish standards for protection against
10 radiation (including occupational exposures) re-
11 sulting from activities at facilities that use an
12 advanced fuel recycling process, including facili-
13 ties to fabricate fuel enriched with actinide ele-
14 ments other than uranium.

15 “(B) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGEN-
16 CY.—The Administrator of the Environmental
17 Protection Agency shall establish generally ap-
18 plicable environmental standards for the protec-
19 tion of the public and the general environment
20 from radioactive material released from facili-
21 ties that use an advanced fuel recycling process,
22 including facilities to fabricate fuel enriched
23 with actinide elements other than uranium.

24 “(g) COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—On completion of sufficient
2 technical progress in the program under subsection
3 (e), the Secretary shall direct the Nuclear Energy
4 Advisory Committee and the Nuclear Waste Tech-
5 nical Review Board to evaluate and prepare reports
6 concerning the readiness of the program for detailed
7 design, engineering, licensing, and deployment of ad-
8 vanced fuel recycling processes.

9 “(2) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to
10 Congress the reports of the Nuclear Energy Advi-
11 sory Committee and the Nuclear Waste Technical
12 Review Board described in paragraph (1) with the
13 first budget request submitted to carry out activities
14 covered by the reports.”.