



FUEL

Bipartisan bill to prioritize HALEU debuts in House



Donalds

Reps. Elaine Luria (D., Va.) and Byron Donalds (R., Fla.) have introduced in the House of Representatives the Fueling Our Nuclear Future Act (H.R. 8723), a bill to accelerate the availability of commercially produced high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) fuel and boost domestic energy production in the United States.



Luria

Unveiled on August 16 following a Senate version introduced in April by Sen. John Barasso, the legislation directs the secretary of energy to prioritize and establish a program that ensures a domestic supply of HALEU for advanced nuclear reactors. Currently, the nation lacks the domestic enrichment capability to produce HALEU. The bill explicitly excludes uranium sourced or processed by any entity owned or controlled by the governments of Russia and China.

H.R. 8723 also directs the energy secretary to provide for an array of HALEU enrichment levels, output levels to meet demand, and fuel forms suitable for multiple advanced reactors. Further, the secretary is directed to consider options to establish a HALEU bank to replenish Department of Energy stockpiles of uranium made available as part of this program.

“As an engineer who operated nuclear reactors in the Navy, I saw firsthand that nuclear power is safe and can play a key role in securing our energy independence and clean energy future,” said Luria in an August 17 press release. “I am proud to introduce the Fueling Our Nuclear Future Act. My legislation will boost America’s domestic energy production and ensure that the United States [remains] a global leader in nuclear energy technology.”



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