



operator (SRO). He was also ANS's 2022 Glenn T. Seaborg Congressional Science and Engineering Fellow.

Most recently, Marzano served as an Idaho National Laboratory detailee for the EPW Committee, advising on policy matters relating to clean air, climate, and energy and assisting with the recent ADVANCE Act legislation designed to prepare the NRC for an expected surge in new nuclear reactor oversight.

Sen. Tom Carper (D., Del.), who chairs the EPW Committee, asked what Marzano's top priorities would be if confirmed, and the nominee pointed to three: a focus on growing the NRC's staff and improving retention, instilling a forward-looking strategy at the NRC, and improving the agency's public engagement.

During his hearing, committee members lobbed questions at Marzano, ranging from how his technical background could serve him as a commissioner to his views on

allowing remote work for staffers.

Ranking member Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R., W.Va.) began her comments by criticizing federal actions that have hindered the coal and natural gas industries, but she also recognized the need for nuclear growth as the demand for energy soars.

"Nuclear energy can and should be part of America's energy portfolio," Capito said.

Pointing to the increasing deployment of nuclear in China and Russia, she said that those countries have the potential to "edge out the United States as a global leader in nuclear." To implement the recently passed ADVANCE Act and to move nuclear projects forward, Capito said, the NRC must make policy decisions, provide leadership, resolve licensing issues, and modernize the staff.

Marzano said there are often "first-of-a-kind hurdles" that present challenges to and sometimes delay new technology projects.

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