

also creates positive accountability to ensure the change in policy goes beyond last year's press release.

While the INEFA—like its sister the INEA—was introduced as an amendment to the NDAA, it was not included in the manager's package and did not make it into the final bill. However, legislative staff received authorization in December to include it in the Department of State's appropriations bill, giving it new life. On February 3, the appropriations bill was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump.

A banner year for export policy

The United States has superb civil nuclear technology in its legacy LWRs, evolutionary light water SMRs, and advanced reactors using novel designs. It has the first-mover advantage in many of the most advanced technologies, bringing new fuel technologies, alternate coolants, stronger operating parameters, and implicit safety. A virtuous circuit among innovative concepts, private capital, the DOE, and the national lab system creates an unmatched network to drive the nuclear future. The market for new capacity in the next two decades may be extraordinary.

On civil nuclear exports, the United States has been difficult to work with, juggling a patchwork of 123 Agreements, a network of uncalibrated three-letter agencies, and a lack of coordination and outward focus. While there are significant issues that remain to be solved around standardizing export agreements, simplifying export control frameworks, delivering efficient financing, and unifying with partners on tangible resources and modes of support, the International Nuclear Energy Act and prospectively the International Nuclear Energy Financing Act create a strong framework to confront and conquer these challenges. Let the hard work begin. ✕

Mike Woosley is managing director at New Era Energy. He is a former ANS Congressional Fellow and worked on both the INEA and the INEFA. Jake Kincer of ClearPath contributed to this article.



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