

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 24, 2019

The Honorable Adam Boehler  
Chief Executive Officer  
U.S. International Development Finance Corporation  
1100 New York Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20527

Dear Mr. Boehler:

The United States currently occupies a central position in the global energy system, and its highly dynamic and competitive environment requires sharpened tools of economic statecraft. We face a number of challenges and opportunities in the global energy arena. To remain competitive, the United States needs new strategic direction focused on long-term relationships within the nexus of raw commodities and infrastructure. The new U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has the potential to play a critical role in this effort.

Another crucial objective, shared by the Administration, is the revival of U.S. civil nuclear capabilities. Russia and China are increasingly using nuclear reactors as a tool for geopolitical purposes, signing cooperation agreements and export deals that may mark the beginning of 100-year commercial and security relationships with developing countries. Instead of competing against Russia and China, The DFC's predecessor, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) maintained a "categorical prohibition" against supporting civil nuclear energy projects, effectively ceding the field to our rivals.

Such a policy sends a harmful signal that American primacy in the civil nuclear sector is waning. As you know, the prohibition stems from an internal Environmental and Social Policy Statement reaffirmed by OPIC as late as January 13, 2017, a mere week before the inauguration of President Trump. This policy must be rectified. In a global energy landscape in which we are competing with Russia and China for the future of nuclear leadership, our nation's premier development finance institution must encourage, not prohibit, the adoption of American technologies and safeguards. Advanced nuclear technologies that are right-sized for developing countries are under development in the U.S. and should be under consideration.

We encourage you to take all steps necessary to reverse OPIC's ban on civil nuclear energy and to ensure that the DFC will be free to pursue a genuinely strategic energy portfolio once it is established. Please share updates with our offices and staff.

Sincerely,



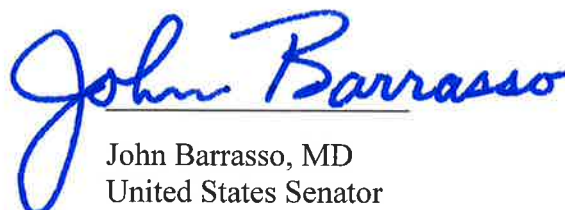
Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator



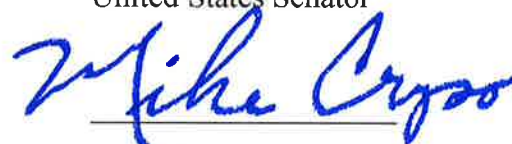
Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



John Barrasso, MD  
United States Senator



Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senator