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April 20, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to urge you to support the continued operation of the United States' domestic nuclear fleet. As a zero-emissions baseload fuel source, I believe that maintaining our fleet and preventing closures of existing nuclear plants is critical to achieving emission reduction goals and ensuring a reliable grid.

Over the past two decades, the United States' total number of nuclear plants has fallen from 104 to 94. Expected closures are increasing, with approximately 5.1 gigawatts of nuclear capacity anticipated to go offline in 2021. A recent study warns that without any change in policy half of the current nuclear fleet will retire by 2030.¹ In 2019, nuclear prevented 476 million metric tons of carbon dioxide from being emitted and represented 55 percent of total emission-free electricity in the United States. Any further closures would be detrimental to meeting any climate goals.

I appreciate your leadership in supporting nuclear power plants' continued operation and the role nuclear plays in combatting climate change. I urge you to take action to preserve our existing nuclear fleet and prevent further closures. I believe the federal government must use all the tools it has to protect this vital resource, to the maximum extent consistent with the health and safety of the public.

With warmest regards,



Joe Manchin III
Chairman

¹ "Pathways to Build Back Better: Investing in 100% Clean Electricity," Rhodium Group, March 23, 2021.