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Office of Governor Steve Sisolak

February 6, 2020

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
524 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Steven Horsford
1330 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Duckworth and Representative Horsford:

I strongly support the legislation you are introducing this week, the Department of Energy and Nuclear Regulatory Commission Whistleblower Protection Act of 2020. By amending the definition of employer in the current law, this common-sense bill will extend to agency employees the whistleblower protection already provided to agency contractors and employees of licensees. Fairness demands nothing less.

The men and women of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) manage and oversee some of the most sensitive and hazardous facilities in the world. Their work is critical for our national security and for protection of public health, public safety, and our environment. DOE and NRC employees are accountable for classified information and large amounts of public funds. Many DOE and NRC employees work under physically challenging conditions and in close proximity to hazardous substances and radioactive materials. These employees' abilities to call attention to dangerous situations must be protected.

My staff has thoroughly reviewed this legislation and estimated its impacts. The bill would extend whistleblower protection to as many as 14,000 DOE and 3,100 NRC employees across the nation, including many of the more than 3,000 workers employed at DOE facilities in Nevada. It will facilitate agency accountability and improve public confidence in agency performance. We stand ready to assist your legislative efforts.

Sincerely,



Governor Steve Sisolak
State of Nevada

CC: Nevada Congressional Delegation