



Modernizing Outdated Regulations to Expand American Fuel Act of 2026 - MORE American Fuel Act of 2026

Safely and responsibly streamlining domestic nuclear fuel production to strengthen energy independence and create jobs

Summary

Nuclear power provides some of America's lowest-cost, most reliable electricity. It also generates thousands of high-paying and long-term jobs. Yet U.S. operators import roughly 80 percent of their enriched uranium, exposing ratepayers to foreign price swings and dependence on overseas suppliers. The MORE American Fuel Act of 2026 modernizes Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing so companies can build domestic fuel capacity and strengthen American energy independence without compromising safety, environmental protections, or public transparency.

Background

Nuclear power provides about 18% of total U.S. electricity generation and is expected to grow in coming years. America's reactors depend on a steady, reliable supply of enriched uranium yet in 2024 U.S. operators purchased roughly 80 percent from foreign sources, including 20 percent from Russia. With global supply chains becoming less predictable, and Russian imports set to end in 2028, expanding domestic enrichment capacity is increasingly urgent.

Building that capacity would strengthen energy resilience and national security while creating high-quality clean-energy jobs, expanding American manufacturing, and driving investment in communities across the country. A stronger domestic enrichment industry would also advance U.S. nonproliferation goals, help American suppliers compete in global nuclear fuel markets, and give allies and partners a reliable alternative to developing their own enrichment capabilities. However, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's outdated and complicated licensing process is poorly suited to meet the needs of today's power plants or the next generation of nuclear technologies.

MORE American Fuel Act of 2026

This bipartisan legislation modernizes Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensing for uranium enrichment facilities while preserving critical environmental, safety, and public protections. Key provisions include:

- **Pre-license construction:** Creates parity with other NRC-licensed facilities by allowing applicants to begin construction before an operating license is issued, subject to all applicable laws and without assurance that an NRC license will ultimately be granted. This helps reduce unnecessary delays and costs while ensuring that early construction does not prejudice the NRC's licensing decision.

— ARIZONA SENATOR —

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- **Public participation:** Protects the public's right to transparency and a hearing on operating licenses, while avoiding unnecessary delays when there is no opposition to the project. This preserves meaningful public input without adding steps that do not improve oversight.
- **Public notification:** Requires applicants to provide written notification to surrounding state, local governments, and Native American Tribes before pre-license construction, ensuring affected communities to receive advance notice and an opportunity to understand planned development.
- **Environmental Review:** Maintains the environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act prior to the issuance of an operating license. Nuclear material may not be enriched or stored on site until the NRC completes its review and issues the operating license.
- **NRC authority and oversight:** Preserves the NRC's full authority to review, approve, deny, condition, and oversee operating licenses under existing statutory and regulatory requirements. The bill does not limit the NRC's ability to impose safety, security, environmental, or operational conditions on a facility.