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UPA COMMENDS HOUSE ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT TO STOP EPA'S FLAWED PART 192 URANIUM RULEMAKING

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday approved an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2017 Interior Appropriations bill to bar a potential Environmental Protection Agency rulemaking that uranium producers fear could bring domestic production to a halt and force the United States to rely entirely on imported fuel for its nuclear power plants.

On January 26, 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a proposed rule titled Health and Environmental Protection Standards for Uranium and Thorium Mill Tailings (80 Fed. Reg. 4155), which would set onerous groundwater protection standards for in-situ uranium recovery (ISR) facilities.

Harry Anthony, President of the Uranium Producers of America, said “We commend the leadership of Representative Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) for offering an amendment to put an end to the EPA’s flawed Part 192 rulemaking. Despite publicly acknowledging there is no evidence that in-situ uranium recovery has ever had an adverse impact on an underground source of drinking water, the EPA is moving full steam ahead. We’ve tried to work with the EPA on this rulemaking. In May 2015, our industry offered to work collaboratively with the EPA to review the reams of existing groundwater data and we even offered to conduct additional sampling if warranted. But the agency never responded.”

“We already import more than 90 percent of the uranium used to fuel our U.S. nuclear reactors,” added Anthony. “If adopted, this rule would bring most domestic production to a halt and jeopardize our energy security.”