

Accelerating Reliable Capacity (ARC) Act

Nuclear energy is emerging as a major resource sought by corporate energy buyers as companies seek to power their growing U.S. operations. In 2025, nuclear surpassed wind as the second-largest carbon emissions-free generation technology procured by corporates, largely through uprates and restarts of existing nuclear plants, according to [CEBA's Deal Tracker](#). The demand signal for additional nuclear capacity is growing, but cost uncertainty is the major barrier to constraining new nuclear deployment.

De-risking advanced nuclear:

In February, Sens. James Risch (R-ID) and Ruben Gallego (D-AZ) [reintroduced](#) the Accelerating Reliable Capacity (ARC) Act of 2026 ([S. 3814](#)) to accelerate investment in and reduce the risk of project cost escalation for new commercial nuclear reactors.

The bill would create the **Accelerating Reliable Capacity Program**, a risk-reduction program for new reactors that would use authorities of the Office of Energy Dominance Financing, formerly known as the Loan Programs Office, within the U.S. Department of Energy.

The ARC Program would establish safeguards against unanticipated cost escalation through enhanced financing terms and a limited federal cost share. The program [establishes](#) initial project readiness requirements, oversees project execution, and incentivizes project completion.

The senators anticipate the program would jump-start commercialization by supporting the development of at least three advanced nuclear projects. As a fleet of nuclear reactors scales, supply chains and the labor force will mature in parallel. This natural evolution will compress timelines, drive down costs, and eventually eliminate the need for federal financing vehicles like the ARC program.

Why it matters:

The ARC Act can help launch an advanced nuclear sector without burdening taxpayers, helping reach the administration's goal of expanding the nation's nuclear capacity from 100 gigawatts (GW) in 2024 to 400 GW by mid-century. By reducing risk premiums crucial to enabling deployment, the ARC Act would help ensure affordable, reliable electricity for all ratepayers, delivering baseload assets that can operate for 80 years.

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The Corporate Energy Buyers Association (CEBA) is a business association that activates energy buyers and their partners to drive low-cost, reliable, carbon emissions-free global electricity systems. CEBA represents nearly 350 members with \$38 trillion in market value, including energy customers of all sizes, suppliers, and service providers. Learn more at ceba.org and follow us on [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#).