

*Edward J. Markey* S.L.C.

*Markey-1*

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To prioritize use of low-enriched uranium fuel in the research, testing, and development of a space surface power reactor design.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—116th Cong., 1st Sess.**

**S. 2800**

To authorize programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. MARKEY

Viz:

1 At the appropriate place, insert the following:

2 **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PRIORITIZATION OF LOW-ENRICHED URANIUM**  
3 **TECHNOLOGY.**

4 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
5 gress that—

6 (1) space technology, including nuclear propul-  
7 sion technology and space surface power reactors,  
8 should be developed in a manner consistent with  
9 broader United States foreign policy, national de-  
10 fense, and space exploration and commercialization  
11 priorities;

1           (2) highly enriched uranium presents security  
2 and nuclear nonproliferation concerns;

3           (3) since 1977, based on the concerns associ-  
4 ated with highly enriched uranium, the United  
5 States has promoted the use of low-enriched ura-  
6 nium over highly enriched uranium in nonmilitary  
7 contexts, including research and commercial applica-  
8 tions;

9           (4) as part of United States efforts to limit  
10 international use of highly enriched uranium, the  
11 United States has actively pursued—

12                   (A) since 1978, the conversion of domestic  
13 and foreign research reactors that use highly  
14 enriched uranium fuel to low-enriched uranium  
15 fuel and the avoidance of any new research re-  
16 actors that use highly enriched uranium fuel;  
17 and

18                   (B) since 1994, the elimination of inter-  
19 national commerce in highly enriched uranium  
20 for civilian purposes; and

21           (5) the use of low-enriched uranium in place of  
22 highly enriched uranium has security, nonprolifera-  
23 tion, and economic benefits, including for the na-  
24 tional space program.

1 (b) PRIORITIZATION OF LOW-ENRICHED URANIUM  
2 TECHNOLOGY.—The Administrator shall establish and  
3 prioritize, within the Space Technology Mission Direc-  
4 torate, a program for the research, testing, and develop-  
5 ment of a space surface power reactor design that uses  
6 low-enriched uranium fuel.

7 (c) REPORT ON NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY  
8 PRIORITIZATION.—Not later than 120 days after the date  
9 of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall sub-  
10 mit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report  
11 that—

12 (1) details the actions taken to implement sub-  
13 section (b); and

14 (2) identifies a plan and timeline under which  
15 such subsection will be implemented.

16 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM.—The term  
18 “highly enriched uranium” means uranium having  
19 an assay of 20 percent or greater of the uranium-  
20 235 isotope.

21 (2) LOW-ENRICHED URANIUM.—The term “low-  
22 enriched uranium” means uranium having an assay  
23 greater than the assay for natural uranium but less  
24 than 20 percent of the uranium-235 isotope.