



Business Roundtable

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April 5, 2006

Dear Member of Congress:

I am writing on behalf of Business Roundtable to urge you to support legislation to implement the new US-India Civilian Nuclear Cooperation Agreement. Business Roundtable supports this agreement in the belief that it will promote closer economic, foreign policy and security relations between the United States and India.

Henry A. McKinnell, Jr.
Pfizer Inc
Chairman

Kenneth I. Chenault
American Express
Company
Co-Chairman

Edward B. Rust, Jr.
State Farm Insurance
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Executive Director

Johanna I. Schneider
Executive Director
External Relations

In terms of economic cooperation, it is important to recognize that India's economy has been the second fastest growing in the world in the last 15 years and needs energy to propel even more growth. With India's investment needs in energy expected to be in the tens of billions of dollars over the next several years, U.S. exporters and their workers will be well positioned to provide India with the goods and services to meet those demands. By assisting India with expansion of its use of civilian nuclear energy, which presently generates less than 3% of India's power, the United States also will help reduce India's need for imported oil and gas. Nuclear energy emits far less carbon dioxide, which will be good for the global environment. In today's global economy these are important potential economic and social benefits.

By being able to help India in its development of civilian nuclear power, this agreement also will serve our strategic and security-focused non-proliferation goals. For the first time, India will be brought formally into the global regime aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. Equally significant, India has an impeccable record on non-proliferation since it first tested a nuclear device in 1974. Unlike other countries, India has not transferred its nuclear technology to any other country. Its last test was in 1998. These factors explain why Britain, France, Russia, Australia, other leading members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group as well as Mohammed el Baradei, Director-General of the IAEA, all have spoken in favor of civilian nuclear cooperation with India.

Finally, by passing legislation to implement the new US-India Civilian Nuclear Power Cooperation Agreement, Congress will strengthen the overall US-India strategic partnership. For too many years, both countries emphasized their differences over foreign policy, military alignments and economic systems. The end of the Cold War, India's new commitment to economic reforms and proliferating people-to-people contacts have enabled both countries now to accentuate the positive. It is long overdue that the two nations who will certainly be global powers in the 21st century, and who are world's oldest democracy and its largest democracy, combine their talents to make both countries and the world more prosperous, more democratic and safer.

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The US-India Civilian Nuclear Cooperation Agreement offers a unique opportunity to achieve important objectives in the US-India relationship, and we strongly urge you to support its implementing legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold McGraw III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "H" and "M".

Harold McGraw III
Chairman, President and CEO, The McGraw-Hill Companies
Chairman, Business Roundtable's International Trade & Investment Task Force