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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Paul Bowers, Chairman, President and CEO  
Georgia Power Company

Tom Bundros, CEO  
Dalton Utilities

Jim Fuller, President and CEO  
MEAG Power

Mike Smith, President and CEO  
Oglethorpe Power

**FROM:** Sam Nunn 

**DATE:** November 2, 2017

**RE:** Nuclear Energy and National Security

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In 2009, I delivered remarks to the American Nuclear Society Annual Meeting. I stated then – and continue to believe – that nuclear energy plays an indispensable role in our efforts to meet human needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

I am aware of recent challenges regarding the construction of nuclear power Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4, but I applaud your unity and determined commitment to overcome remaining obstacles and to complete this important project which will be a long-term asset for Georgia and our nation.

There are many reasons to support commercial nuclear energy including – jobs created through continued construction – meeting the needs of citizens added to our rolls through Georgia’s dynamic growth – and providing for a diversity of electric options that assure power delivery over the long-haul. From a climate change perspective, zero carbon nuclear power is important in its own right and as a backup for growing renewable sources of energy, including wind and solar.

I also believe that a viable commercial nuclear energy enterprise in the United States is essential to our national security, including assuring:

1. U.S. leadership in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons around the world;
2. Support for U.S. technology, scientists, engineers and a skilled work force required to assure safety and security of existing and future civil and defense nuclear activities; and
3. Support for the U.S. Navy's 100 nuclear ships and submarines that depend on enriched uranium and highly trained nuclear engineers.

Widely respected nuclear physicist and former U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz recently said, "Nuclear power development is a critical factor in global security. U.S. national security is enhanced if the public and private sectors work in tandem to shape the global spread of nuclear energy consistent with energy security, safety, environmental stewardship and geopolitical stability. An underappreciated element is the essential role of a strong U.S. nuclear industry to provide continuing U.S. leadership in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. U.S. leadership in the nonproliferation regime depends on being a valued supplier with a strong and sustainable industrial and scientific base." I strongly agree.

Given the national security and global climate imperatives of a strong U.S. commercial nuclear enterprise, the federal government has a crucial role to play in support and assuring financing of the commercial nuclear power industry.