

# CLEARPATH

## **Vogtle Decision Good Sign For Advancing Nuclear Industry**

*But significant efforts remain, including extending production tax credit*

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31, 2017 -- The decision by Southern Company to continue conditional expansion of Plant Vogtle is an important step towards broader advancement of U.S. nuclear power.

“This is great news and signal that there is significant utility backing for sustaining and growing our nuclear sector,” ClearPath Executive Director Rich Powell said. “But there are still tremendous challenges and work ahead, including sustaining the necessary incentives to see this project through to the end.”

One important condition of the decision to continue construction is the congressional extension of a production tax credit for new nuclear facilities. The current credit created by Congress in 2005 [includes a key flaw](#) by instituting a deadline for new facilities to be in service by the end of 2021. No facility has yet claimed this credit, so an extension comes with little incremental cost.

Congress should be wary of creating unnecessary urgency to complete first-of-a-kind technology demonstrations. An advanced nuclear credit that includes a volume limitation without an expiration date will create competition, reducing uncertainty without forcing utilities and design vendors into an unrealistic construction timeline.

### **About ClearPath**

Founded by businessman Jay Faison, ClearPath’s mission is to accelerate conservative clean energy solutions. To advance the mission, ClearPath develops cutting-edge policy and messaging and works with policymakers and industry.