



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
AND
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
NUCLEAR WEAPONS COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3050



July 25, 2014

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

On behalf of the Nuclear Weapons Council (NWC), we are writing to emphasize our commitment to maintaining plutonium production and associated support capabilities at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) consistent with current production plans and section 3114 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, as amended by section 3117 of the NDAA for FY 2014.

Specifically, each sub-section of the aforementioned NDAA provision is addressed below. Each response is dependent on timely receipt of congressional appropriations and authorizations as well as the release of funds previously requested for reprogramming from the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) project in August. Consistent with section 3114 of the aforementioned language, this letter serves as notification from the NWC that:

- A. The modular building strategy as defined in section 3114 will:
 1. Meet the requirements for maintaining the nuclear weapons stockpile over a 30-year period;
 2. Meet the requirements for implementation of a responsive infrastructure, including meeting plutonium pit production requirements; and
 3. Include plans to construct two modular structures that will achieve full operating capability not later than 2027.
- B. The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) will begin the process of designing and building modular buildings in accordance with Department of Energy Order 413.3B in FY 2015 by performing pre-conceptual design activities in preparation for Critical Decision (CD) – 0.
- C. The NNSA Administrator will include costs in the future-years nuclear security program as the design of the modular buildings matures, in accordance with section 3253 of the NNSA Act and DOE Order 413.3B.

NNSA's plans are consistent with the language in the NDAA for FY 2013 and FY 2014 and we request your support to use the remaining CMRR funding to begin the first two steps of the plutonium strategy as subprojects within the CMRR project. Your continued support is appreciated, and we look forward to updating Congress on our progress.



Frank Kendall
Chairman, Nuclear Weapons Council
Under Secretary of Defense for
Acquisition, Technology and Logistics
Department of Defense



Frank G. Klotz
Administrator
National Nuclear Security Administration

cc:
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Vice Chairman