The Honorable Howard P. “Buck” McKeon  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In an April 8, 2013, letter to your office, the Department of Defense (DoD) and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) detailed a proposed path forward to sustain the Nation’s pit production capability in light of the deferral of the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement—Nuclear Facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Our response outlined plans for the NNSA request for $120 million in reprogrammed FY 2012 funds and included a commitment to analyze several options to meet the Nation’s plutonium needs.

The NNSA, with assistance from the DoD Office of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (CAPE), completed the initial 60-day analysis of options and briefed the Nuclear Weapons Council (NWC) on May 20, 2013. Based on this initial analysis, the “modular” concept offers potential for a sequenced and affordable approach to achieving needed plutonium capabilities. The NWC endorsed continued analysis on the modular concept, recognizing that further design details and costs must also be examined and compared with other feasible alternatives. In the next phase of this study, NNSA, with DoD/CAPE assistance, will assess the capabilities, costs, and risks associated with this approach in order to better inform an NWC decision on a plutonium strategy.

We seek your approval of NNSA’s $120 million reprogramming request to carry out this next phase in time to inform the President’s budget request for FY 2015 and to begin efforts to achieve a capability to produce 30 pits per year by 2021 at existing facilities (common to all options under review). Your continued support is appreciated, and we look forward to informing Congress about the results of our ongoing analysis.

Frank Kendall  
Chairman

cc:  
The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member
The Honorable Carl Levin  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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cc:  
The Honorable James M. Inhofe  
Ranking Member

Frank Kendall  
Chairman
The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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Frank Kendall  
Chairman

cc:  
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Ranking Member
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chairman:

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[Signature]
Frank Kendall  
Chairman

cc:  
The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Ranking Member
COORDINATION

SUBJECT: Plutonium Business Case Analysis Letter

NWC Members

USD Policy
Dr. Jim Miller
June 15, 2013 (concur)

CDRUSSTRATCOM
General Robert Kehler
June 3, 2013 (concur)

NNSA Administrator
Ms. Neile Miller
May 30, 2013 (concur)

VCJCS
ADM James Winnefeld
June 5, 2013 (concur)

DoD Coordination

General Counsel
Mr. Charles Allen
June 3, 2013 (concur)

Legislative Affairs
Mr. Joseph Simonelli
June 4, 2013 (concur)
and Mr. Edward Devinney

CAPE
Dr. Scott Comes
June 7, 2013 (concur)

ARA
Dr. Nancy Spruill
June 6, 2013 (concur)
## Subject:
Plutonium Strategy Business Case Analysis Findings Congressional Letter

### Initials Date Comments

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### Notes:

### Disposition Instructions:

THIS TASK RESIDES ON THE NIPRNET VERSION OF SACCP.