



Leo W. Gerard
International President

June 10, 2011

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chair
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Visclosky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky:

I write today to express the United Steelworker's concern that funding for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Environmental Management Program (EM) be maintained and specifically that the private sector funding of the Decontamination & Decommissioning Program (D&D) covering former uranium enrichment sites be reinstated.

In addition to being the largest industrial union in America, the United Steelworkers (USW) is the largest union in the U.S. nuclear fuel cycle industry and at the many decontamination projects now operating. In particular, USW is the sole representative of workers at the Paducah, Kentucky, uranium enrichment plant, the Portsmouth, Ohio, D&D site, and is the largest union at the Oak Ridge, Tennessee D&D site.

In this era of budgetary constraints, reinstatement of private-sector funding which was discontinued in 2007 is more critical than ever to the proper functioning of these two vital programs. Without this added resource, it will be difficult to ensure that DOE is able to meet its statutory obligations to the workers and communities who sacrificed so much to build America's nuclear defense capability and its civilian nuclear power sector.

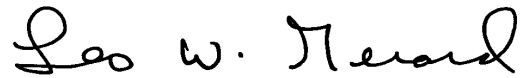
In recent years, in part because of increasing fiscal constraints, we believe DOE has fallen short of its obligations under law. Full Congressional funding of EM and D&D and resumption of the private sector contribution to D&D will help make sure the agency is well able to meet its obligations to the workers and the communities where these sites are located. Fulfillment of these obligations will play no small role in ensuring the smooth and productive operation of all the nuclear cleanup programs.

Reinstating the private sector contribution will take pressure off the federal budget and will allow those that have profited from the operation of our Nation's nuclear fuel cycle to

share in the duty of ensuring the economic viability, and health and safety of the workers and the communities in which these facilities are located.

It is our hope we can count on your support in this important matter. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leo W. Gerard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and a distinct 'W'.

Leo W. Gerard
International President

cc: Honorable Steven Chu, Secretary, US Department of Energy

LWG/cdk