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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

November 30, 2010

Dr. Michael R. Anastasio
Director
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663
Los Alamos, NM 87545

Dear Dr. Anastasio:

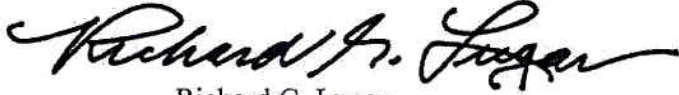
On July 15, 2010, you testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee regarding the implications of the New START Treaty for maintaining the safety, reliability and effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile. The directors of Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Laboratories also testified at that hearing. The three of you had already stated that the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review "provides the necessary technical flexibility to manage the nuclear stockpile into the future with an acceptable level of risk," and you added in your testimony that the budgetary plan in the Section 1251 Report and the Fiscal Year 2011 budget request was "a real show of commitment on the part of the administration that helps stabilize the weapons program for the future. It also puts necessary new funds towards starting some of the needed hands-on stockpile work and repairing of the decaying infrastructure throughout the complex." Dr. Miller called it "a very good start."

All three of you went on to stress, however, that you still had concerns. As you stated, "This effort will require sustained focus for multiple administrations and multiple Congresses over several decades.... The nuclear infrastructure needs and the stockpile needs have the potential to unbalance the rest of the program, squeezing out the science that is really the fundamental basis of stockpile stewardship." Dr. Himmert spoke of the need for "stable, multiyear program direction and resources," as well as for "keeping pace with modern-day technologies." On September 15 the Vice President assured this committee that the Section 1251 Report would be updated and a revised FY 2012 budget figure would be provided this fall.

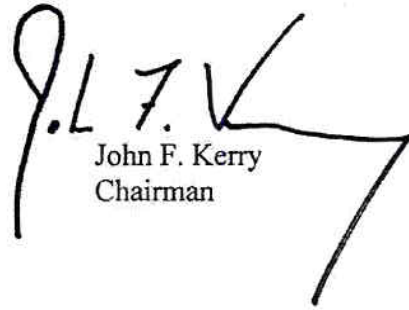
The Administration now has provided an updated Section 1251 Report with revised budget numbers for FY 2012-2016, and we would appreciate your giving us your considered opinion as to whether those revisions meet the concerns that you raised four months ago. As we consider the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the New START Treaty that the committee approved on September 16, we want to make sure that Administration has addressed your concerns in a meaningful way and that the safety, reliability and effectiveness of America's nuclear deterrent will be maintained within the limit of 1,550 deployed strategic warheads established by that treaty. A statement of your views on these matters would greatly assist both the committee and the United States Senate as a whole.

Thank you for your cooperation and for your continued excellent service to the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard G. Lugar".

Richard G. Lugar
Ranking Member

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John F. Kerry".

John F. Kerry
Chairman