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April 10, 1998

Governor John Kitzhaber  
254 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Governor Kitzhaber:

The Hanford Advisory Board has reviewed the Department of Energy-Richland (DOE) draft FY2000 budget and provided the enclosed advice to DOE.

For four years, the Hanford Advisory Board has conducted in-depth reviews of DOE's proposed cleanup budgets. The advice from the Board has helped make cleanup more efficient, saving millions of taxpayer dollars. We worked with DOE-Richland to open the budget process and appreciate the cooperation and openness that have been shown. Our advice has been consistent: Get on with cleanup and meet Tri-Party Agreement commitments in a cost effective way.

We have continued to pursue contractor efficiencies to allow more work to be done for less and worked to reduce overhead and indirect costs. We have supported Tri-Party Agreement changes to streamline cleanup costs and change milestones when they make good sense and are prudent. However, the compliance gap in budgets needed to comply with legal requirements at Hanford continues to grow from an estimated \$42.5 million this year to a projected \$124 million in FY2000. This is unacceptable. Reduced funding creates a backlog of delayed work and creates risks, threatening the very safety of Northwest citizens, the environment, and economy and violating the legally binding Tri-Party Agreement milestones.

We hope our advice is carefully reviewed by DOE as it submits its funding requests to the Office of Management and Budget.

Very truly yours,

Merilyn B. Reeves, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board

cc: James Owendoff, Department of Energy-Headquarters  
John Wagoner, Department of Energy  
Tom Fitzsimmons, Washington Department of Ecology  
Chuck Clarke, Environmental Protection Agency  
Alice Murphy, Designated Federal Official  
Randy Smith, Environmental Protection Agency  
Dan Silver, Washington Department of Ecology

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*For questions or comments, please send [email](mailto:Hanford_Advisory_Board@rl.gov) to Hanford\_Advisory\_Board@rl.gov*

*HAB Consensus Advice #84*

*Subject: FY2000 Budget*

*Adopted: April 3, 1998*