



Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory



December 1, 2010

The Honorable John Kerry
The Honorable Richard Lugar
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Kerry and Ranking Member Lugar,

This letter is a joint response to the letters received November 30, 2010, by each of us in our current roles as directors of the three Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) laboratories—Los Alamos National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and Sandia National Laboratories.

We are very pleased by the update to the Section 1251 Report, as it would enable the laboratories to execute our requirements for ensuring a safe, secure, reliable and effective stockpile under the Stockpile Stewardship and Management Plan. In particular, we are pleased because it clearly responds to many of the concerns that we and others have voiced in the past about potential future-year funding shortfalls, and it substantially reduces risks to the overall program. We believe that, if enacted, the added funding outlined in the Section 1251 Report update—for enhanced surveillance, pensions, facility construction, and Readiness in Technical Base and Facilities (RTBF) among other programs—would establish a workable funding level for a balanced program that sustains the science, technology and engineering base. In summary, we believe that the proposed budgets provide adequate support to sustain the safety, security, reliability and effectiveness of America's nuclear deterrent within the limit of 1550 deployed strategic warheads established by the New START Treaty with adequate confidence and acceptable risk.

As we emphasized in our testimonies, implementation of the future vision of the nuclear deterrent described by the bipartisan Strategic Posture Commission and the Nuclear Posture Review will require sustained attention and continued refinement as requirements are defined and baselines for these major projects are established. We appreciate the fact that this 1251 update calls out the importance of being flexible and the need to revisit these budgets every year as additional detail becomes available.

We look forward to working with you and the Administration to execute this program to ensure the viability of the U.S. nuclear deterrent.

Sincerely,

George H. Miller

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