



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

October 25, 2011

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Administration supports an advanced domestic uranium enrichment capability. Therefore, I am writing to request your support for \$150 million in budget authority in Fiscal Year 2012 to advance the development of enrichment technology that could serve as a domestic fuel source for national security and nuclear energy.

We recognize that there are some financial and technical challenges in gas centrifuge technology that still need to be addressed. That is why the Administration is proposing to pursue a Research, Development, and Demonstration (RD&D) program to manufacture and test production design machines on a path toward one "train" of centrifuges (720 centrifuges) so that the key systems can be tested as they would actually operate at the scale necessary for full commercialization.

This approach would involve a scoping phase to set technological and financial milestones to manage the effort and protect the taxpayers, a technical verification phase to demonstrate reliability of the finalized machine design and systems, and a build-out phase to construct additional cascades of a portion of a train deemed necessary to reduce the technical and financial risks.

Such budget authority would be fully offset through cancellations available from existing funds within the Department of Energy. We look forward to working with the Committee on these important projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Chu".

Steven Chu

cc: The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member





The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

October 25, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Administration supports an advanced domestic uranium enrichment capability. Therefore, I am writing to request your support for \$150 million in budget authority in Fiscal Year 2012 to advance the development of enrichment technology that could serve as a domestic fuel source for national security and nuclear energy.

We recognize that there are some financial and technical challenges in gas centrifuge technology that still need to be addressed. That is why the Administration is proposing to pursue a Research, Development, and Demonstration (RD&D) program to manufacture and test production design machines on a path toward one "train" of centrifuges (720 centrifuges) so that the key systems can be tested as they would actually operate at the scale necessary for full commercialization.

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Sincerely,

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Steven Chu

cc: The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky
Ranking Member





The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

October 25, 2011

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Feinstein:

The Administration supports an advanced domestic uranium enrichment capability. Therefore, I am writing to request your support for \$150 million in budget authority in Fiscal Year 2012 to advance the development of enrichment technology that could serve as a domestic fuel source for national security and nuclear energy.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Chu".

Steven Chu

cc: The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member





The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

October 25, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

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Steven Chu

cc: The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member

