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August 7, 2013

The Honorable Dr. Ernest Moniz  
Secretary  
United States Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz:

I am writing regarding the Pilot Program on Technology Commercialization provision that was included in Public Law 112-239, the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013*. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), both National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) laboratories located in my congressional district, would be particularly well suited for this pilot program. I strongly encourage you to consider them and I look forward to updates on the progress of the Pilot Program's implementation.

Section 3165 of Public Law 112-239 authorizes the Secretary of Energy to establish, in coordination with the Technology Transfer Coordinator, a pilot program at a national security laboratory for the purpose of accelerating technology transfer from our national laboratories to the marketplace. The authority to carry out the pilot program terminates two years after the enactment of the authorizing legislation, or January 2, 2015.

Both LLNL and SNL are doing cutting edge research and development which make them perfect candidates to work with the Department of Energy in finding ways to facilitate technology transfer to the private sector. In fact, both labs are already working to use their knowledge and skills to assist the marketplace. For example, LLNL and SNL have combined to establish the Livermore Valley Open Campus (LVOC). The LVOC houses conference space and collaboration facilities that connect industry and laboratory partners and is intended to enhance and accelerate international scientific collaboration and partnerships with U.S. government agencies, industry and academia.

Also, located near the LVOC is another project LLNL and SNL are working on together, the i-GATE Innovation Hub. i-GATE is a regional public-private partnership in my district that was designed by the State of California to support technology startups and foster collaboration between the laboratories and industry. Beyond the two labs, i-GATE partners include local cities, such as Livermore, and local industry partners, such as Chevron Energy Solutions.

i-GATE provides collaboration opportunities, entrepreneurial education and assistance, and operates a startup incubator for the development of high-growth technology companies in a

variety of sectors including biomedical, agriculture, advanced manufacturing, and others. The i-GATE partnership enables the full spectrum of regional collaboration and the development of a regional innovation ecosystem.

LLNL and SNL have shown a commitment to facilitating the commercialization of their research and analysis, and they would make an excellent selection for the Pilot Project under Section 3165. Please keep me informed on the development of the Pilot Program. I welcome the opportunity to work with you to make it a success.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Swalwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress