March 15, 2016

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Energy and Water Development
Appropriations Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Energy and Water Development
Appropriations Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

We are writing to express our strong support of President Obama’s fiscal year (FY) 2017 budget request of $330 million for the National Ignition Facility (NIF), located at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, under the National Nuclear Security Administration’s (NNSA) Inertial Confinement Fusion and High Yield Campaign (ICF).

Failing to provide this stable and sufficient funding would have a negative impact on domestic fusion research at a critical juncture when major scientific breakthroughs are being achieved. Russia, China, and France have accelerated investments in this area to compete in inertial confinement fusion, but remain behind this premier U.S. facility. We must not cede American leadership, as this investment leads to the energy industry of the future.

To ensure the U.S. does not fall behind our competitors and continues to build upon the significant investments already made, it is essential that the NIF be given the sustained funding consistent with the President’s budget request. We look forward to working with you to maintain and build on our country’s leadership in inertial confinement fusion research and development, necessary to maintain our nuclear stockpile and develop the energy of the future.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress
Alan Greyson
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

Scott Peters
Member of Congress

John Conyers Jr.
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Jim Langevin
Member of Congress
Donald S. Beye, Jr.
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress