

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

We write to highlight two infrastructure efforts and express our support for President Obama's fiscal year (FY) 2017 funding requests for two items – \$500,000 towards a new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and \$25.1 million for electrical infrastructure upgrades to support LLNL and at the nearby California campus of Sandia National Laboratories (SNL-CA).

LLNL and Sandia are primarily responsible with ensuring the safety, security, and reliability of our nation's nuclear deterrent. They also work on other important issues ranging from nuclear proliferation and terrorism to energy shortages and climate change, all of which threaten national security and global stability. It is critical that we have all of the support and modern infrastructure in place needed to allow their hard-working employees to complete their missions and be kept safe.

In particular, one safety project about which we are writing is a new EOC at LLNL, and the \$500,000 President Obama requested will move us toward that goal. The current EOC is home to LLNL's Emergency Management Department, which is responsible for fire department services, administration of its comprehensive emergency management system, and facilitating site-wide disaster preparedness, to name just a few of its roles. Despite its many and varied duties, the EOC is housed on the second floor of a 30 year-old building on LLNL's campus meant only to be a temporary home, yet it has been there since 2002. There is an insufficient amount of space, and it is not compliant with the *Americans with Disabilities Act*. Perhaps most troubling, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board found in September 2014 that the current EOC may not be safe during a catastrophic event, just when it would be needed the most.

A new EOC would correct these serious difficulties and also have space to locate within it the Alameda County Regional Emergency Communications Center (ACRECC), which processes about 200,000 emergency calls per year for LLNL and Alameda County. ACRECC also is the Region II Dispatch Center for the State of California and thus provides emergency coordination for mutual aid resources sent to and from northern and central California jurisdictions during catastrophic events such as floods, fires, and earthquakes. Currently it operates on LLNL's campus in an old building which fails to provide sufficient space to support a regional dispatch center.

A second effort needed to improve safety and support mission execution we wanted to highlight is an upgrade to certain electrical systems at LLNL. Current systems are insufficient to provide reliable power, allow for continued operations in parts of LLNL and the entire SNL-CA campus in the event of certain single-point power line failures, accommodate planned, mission-critical


growth in high performance computing at LLNL, or to serve planned facilities in the developing Livermore Valley Open Campus. Proposed upgrades would address these problems.


In view of these significant needs, the National Nuclear Security Administration has established two projects: Project 15-D-612, Emergency Operations Center, LLNL and Project 17-D-630, Expand Electrical Distribution System, LLNL. Both plans would directly support the safety and mission of LLNL, as well as work at neighboring SNL-CA, and benefit emergency operations throughout Alameda County and all of California.

In light of these conditions, when you are preparing appropriations legislation for FY 2017, we strongly encourage you to include \$500,000 for Project 15-D-612, Emergency Operations Center, LLNL and \$25.1 million for Project 17-D-630, Expand Electrical Distribution System, LLNL, consistent with the President's FY 2017 budget request.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

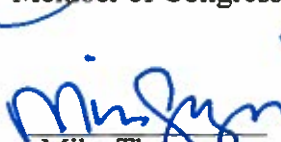
Sincerely,



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress


Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress


Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress


Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



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Tony Cardenas
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