Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2019

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy & Water
Development, & Related Agencies
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy & Water
Development, & Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson,

As you prepare the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2020, we write to urge you to include language prohibiting funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) for the transfer, disposal, or storage of plutonium from the State of South Carolina to the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS).

Last year, a federal court mandated the Department of Energy move one metric ton of plutonium from the Savannah River Site located in South Carolina. Following the ruling, a proposal identified the Nevada National Security Site located 70 miles from Las Vegas, Nevada, as one of two recipients of this material. The State of Nevada filed suit, arguing the Department failed to adequately study the potential dangers of moving the material to an area that is subject to flash floods and earthquakes. The Department failed to disclose to a federal judge prior to arguments this past January that the material actually had been shipped secretly to the NNSS before October of last year.

DOE is required to move an additional five metric tons out of South Carolina in the coming years. The Department now claims that it does not plan to move any more plutonium to the NNSS, but considering the actions taken by DOE and its failure to notify a federal judge, the State of Nevada, and the Nevada Congressional Delegation, we ask for the following language to be included in the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2020:

None of the funds in this act may be used for the transfer, disposal, or storage of plutonium from the Savannah River Site located in the State of South Carolina to the Nevada National Security Site located in the State of Nevada.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Dina Titus

Member of Congress

Susie Lee

Member of Congress

Steven Horsford

Member of Congress