

May 15, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Creating Jobs and Infrastructure Projects at U.S. Department of Energy Facilities

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer and Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the Energy Communities Alliance, the Energy, Technology and Environmental Business Association (ETEBA), North America's Building Trades Unions, and Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO, along with the regional organizations within our communities signing below, we are collectively writing to strongly support a one-time \$7.25 billion increase in funding for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) program (see attached). This funding, which could be spent in the near future, will help reignite the national economy, assist in reviving small businesses, and create thousands of new jobs. At the same time, it could reduce one of the federal government's largest liabilities, accelerate the national defense mission, and build a nuclear workforce for the future.

As the federal government looks to stimulate the economy from the impacts of COVID-19, we recognize an immediate opportunity to address common needs across the country: **(1) creating jobs in some of the regions impacted most by COVID-19, (2) providing meaningful, measurable economic impact beyond job creation; (3) reviving the small business community; (4) supporting our national defense, and (4) meeting our Nation's infrastructure and cleanup goals.**

Our organizations have consistently supported DOE's legacy cleanup mission, which in turn plays a crucial role in supporting science advancement, national security, and energy research across our one-of-a-kind national laboratory complex. We have worked to improve coordination among federal, state and local government leaders, contractors, unions, communities and economic development entities, resulting in real progress. However, we must remain committed to reducing one of the country's largest environmental and financial liabilities to drive the innovations and technological advancements for America's future.

DOE has already identified numerous Office of Environmental Management priority projects that are ready to proceed should funding become available. Further, the funding to support these projects can incentivize job training, small business participation, and community development.

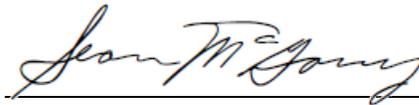
We are confident that DOE can successfully manage increased funding and leverage it for future economic development as it has in the past. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) allowed DOE to speed up decontamination and demolition at numerous sites and award more contracts to private industry and small businesses to hasten the clean-up of legacy nuclear waste. During ARRA, EM proved a worthy investment: the program received \$6 billion and was able to reduce the program's future financial liabilities by \$13 billion through the acceleration of cleanup work. EM contractors alone hired over 20,000 new workers, putting them back to work to reduce the overall cleanup complex footprint by 688 square miles while strengthening local economies.

We take pride in working together to support jobs and development of infrastructure and work that make our Country stronger and assists us to recover from the impacts of COVID-19. As state and local officials, companies, the workers at the sites [insert information from all signatories] we take seriously our shared responsibility to protect human health and the environment while reducing the burden on taxpayers. With strong leadership in place at DOE, and with the support of Congress, we believe we have a rare opportunity to address the legacy of the past, implement DOE's strategic vision more rapidly and develop the pipeline of nuclear workers and technologies to help us lead in the future.

Sincerely,



Ronald Woody
County Executive, Roane County, Tennessee
ECA Chair



Sean McGarvey
President
North America's Building Trades Unions



James Hart
President, Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO



Robert Eby
Board President, ETEBA



Karl Dye
President/CEO, Tri City Development Council
(TRIDEC)



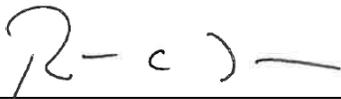
Rebecca Casper
Mayor, City of Idaho Falls
City of Idaho Falls, Idaho



Bruce Wilcox
President & CEO
Greater Paducah Economic Development



Sandra Wilson
President & CEO
Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce



Rick Fuentes
Local Union President
United Steelworkers Local 12-9477 (WIPP)



John Pfeffer
Supervisor, Town of Ashford
Town of Ashford, New York



Rick McLeod
President/CEO, Savannah River Site
Community Reuse Organization
(SRSCRO)



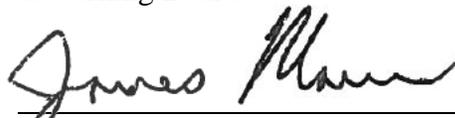
Brandi Harless
Mayor, City of Paducah
City of Paducah, Kentucky



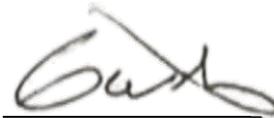
Craig Z. Clymer
McCracken County Judge Executive



Robert J. Thompson
Chairman, Hanford Communities
Governing Board



James Marra
Executive Director, CNTA



Greg Wiles
Paducah Area Community Reuse
Organization (PACRO)



Teresa McKnight, CEO
Regional Economic Development for
Eastern Idaho (REDI)

Attachment: Office of Environmental Management Project Outline

Opportunity: The Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management (EM) has at least \$7.2 billion of projects that could be completed over the next three to five years, making a dramatic economic impact in 11 states across the country while significantly accelerating important environmental work to reduce the federal government's long-term liability.

Justification: DOE-EM is responsible for the cleanup of the legacy nuclear facilities and wastes left behind from the Manhattan Project, the Cold War, and decades of federal government research and development. The EM program has achieved much since its inception in 1989, but today 16 sites remain in 11 states with a lifecycle cost in the 100s of billions of dollars, representing one of the federal government's greatest environmental and financial liabilities. EM and its contractor workforce of over 20,000 are successfully tackling some of the toughest environmental challenges found anywhere around the world.

EM's future scope of work is well known, and for the most part formally characterized. This means the program is well placed to identify and begin work immediately on a significant number of priority projects and infrastructure improvements. Many of the EM sites are co-located with DOE national labs, where acceleration of the environmental cleanup liabilities will support future essential laboratory missions in the areas of scientific discovery and nuclear security.

Project Highlights: With the additional \$7.25 billion, EM could initiate and complete dozens of high-impact projects, including:

- **Hanford Richland Operations:** Risk reduction activities at WESF and the 300-296 Waste Site, soil and groundwater remediation, dewatering and characterization of the K Basins.
- **Hanford Office of River Protection:** Continued design, engineering and construction of the High-Level Waste Facility, which is essential for successful completion of Hanford's tank waste treatment mission.
- **Idaho Cleanup Project:** Complete construction for a spent nuclear fuel repackaging facility to package fuel into a multipurpose canister and place into storage waiting final disposition.
- **Waste Isolation Pilot Plant:** Accelerate the new utility shaft hoisting capability.
- **Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup:** Accelerate implementation of TRU waste processing capabilities; support TA-21 facility D&D and remediation activities.
- **Nevada:** Additional site infrastructure upgrades.
- **Oak Ridge:** Expediting groundwater investigations and treatment of mercury-contaminated waste; Clean-up of Experimental Gas Cooled Reactor, accelerating federal land reuse
- **Paducah:** Acceleration of deactivation and demolition of support facilities for the main processing buildings.
- **Portsmouth:** Accelerate decommissioning and environmental remediation, including the X-555 HV Switchyard and X-530 Remediation.
- **West Valley:** Infrastructure upgrades and legacy waste removal.
- **Savannah River:** Accelerate F Tank Farm closure as well as complete additional infrastructure projects.