

BOB STUMP, ARIZONA
DUNCAN HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
JOHN R. KASICH, OHIO
HERBERT H. BATEMAN, VIRGINIA
JAMES V. HANSEN, UTAH
CLYDE WELDON, PENNSYLVANIA
ROBERT K. DORNAN, CALIFORNIA
JOEL HEFLEY, COLORADO
JIM SAXTON, NEW JERSEY
RANDY "DUKE" CURRIER, CALIFORNIA
STEVE BUYER, INDIANA
PETER G. TONKOLSEN, MASSACHUSETTS
TILLIE K. POWLER, FLORIDA
JOHN M. MCNULLEN, NEW YORK
JAMES TALENT, MISSOURI
TERRY EVERETT, ALABAMA
ROSCOE G. BARTLETT, MARYLAND
HOWARD "BUCK" BASSON, CALIFORNIA
RON LEWIS, KENTUCKY
J.C. WATTS, JR., OKLAHOMA
MAC THOMPSON, TEXAS
JOHN H. HOSTETTLER, INDIANA
SABY CHAMBERS, GEORGIA
VAN HILLEARY, TENNESSEE
JOE SCARBOROUGH, FLORIDA
WALTER S. JONES, JR., NORTH CAROLINA
JAMES S. LONGLEY, JR., MAINE
TODD TIAHRT, KANSAS
RICHARD "DOC" HASTINGS, WASHINGTON

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH CONGRESS

FLOYD D. SPENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA, CHAIRMAN

January 17, 1996

RONALD V. DELLUMS, CALIFORNIA
G.V. (BOBBY) MONTGOMERY, MISSISSIPPI
PATRICIA SCHROEDER, COLORADO
IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI
NORMAN BASKIS, VIRGINIA
JOHN M. SPRATT, JR., SOUTH CAROLINA
SOLOMON P. ORTIZ, TEXAS
OWEN PICKETT, VIRGINIA
LAME EVANS, ILLINOIS
JOHN TANNER, TENNESSEE
GLEN BROWDER, ALABAMA
GENE TAYLOR, MISSISSIPPI
NEIL ABERCROMBIE, HAWAII
CHET EDWARDS, TEXAS
FRANK TEJEDA, TEXAS
MARTIN T. MEEHAN, MASSACHUSETTS
ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD, GUAM
JANE HARMAN, CALIFORNIA
PAUL MCMALE, PENNSYLVANIA
PETE GEREN, TEXAS
PETE PETERSON, FLORIDA
WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, LOUISIANA
ROSA L. DELAURIO, CONNECTICUT
MIKE WARD, KENTUCKY
PATRICK J. KENNEDY, RHODE ISLAND

ANDREW K. ELLIS, STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Hazel R. O'Leary
Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Madam Secretary:

I have reviewed the Department of Energy's Record of Decision on tritium production. I understand the decision to pursue a dual track strategy, one track relying on the development of accelerator technology and the other track looking to utilize existing commercial light water nuclear reactor facilities tritium development.

I write because it is my view that the included option of purchasing irradiation services deserves special scrutiny from a non-proliferation perspective. While it is true that tritium is not designated as a "special nuclear material," I am nonetheless concerned that going to a practice of regularly purchasing tritium from commercial reactors would unnecessarily mingle our defense nuclear program with our civilian power program. As the Department pursues its assessment under the twin track strategy, I would urge that it consult with the public and with other agencies of the government to determine the degree to which exercising an option to purchase irradiation services would compromise our ability to pursue with full vigor and success our national non-proliferation strategy.

I thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely yours,



Ronald V. Dellums
Ranking Democrat

- cc: Hon. Floyd Spence, Chairman
- Hon. Duncan Hunter, Chairman, Subcommittee on Military Procurement
- Hon. Ike Skelton, Ranking Democrat, Subcommittee on Military Procurement