



**The Secretary of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

January 12, 2000

The Honorable Herbert J. C. Kouts  
Member  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Dr. Kouts:

My warmest congratulations on your retirement from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

Your tireless efforts on behalf of the Nation--for fifty years--have led the Nation's nuclear community toward the highest standards of safety and the integration of safety into all aspects of work. You have helped set a lasting course within the Department of Energy for the protection of the public, the environment, and our workers.

I wish you great success for the future, and I hope that your expertise and wise counsel remain accessible to the Board and the Department in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Richardson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bill Richardson

