



## WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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May 13, 2011

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development  
House Appropriations Committee  
2362-B RHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 LHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and  
Water Development  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 LHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen:

On behalf of Western Governors, we strongly urge you to fully support the Department of Energy's Environmental Management Program (EM) during the critical FY 2012 budget negotiations and deliberations which are underway.

You are well aware of the nation's legal obligations to clean up and remediate the federal nuclear weapons manufacturing and testing sites across the nation. Those obligations are taken seriously in our western states. Equally important to the citizens of our respective states are the environmental benefits provided by this proven program to resolve the effects of the Cold War legacy of the U.S. nuclear weapons production operations. DOE's EM program is necessary to responsibly honor promises made to state and local governments to reduce risks to citizens and communities and to restore the environment. It is essential to continue the federal government's exemplary progress in relieving future generations from environmental and financial liabilities.

The EM program has proven successes and with continued support of EM funding in the FY 2012 budget development, the contaminated footprint of these sites nationwide will be greatly reduced.

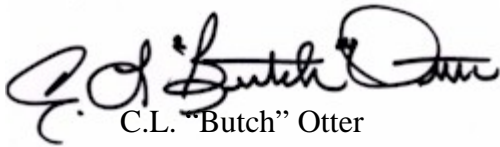
DOE must have a sustainable cleanup budget. Without steady and reliable EM funding from year to year, environmental compliance and risk management at these sites will be prolonged, jeopardizing the impressive gains made to date and unacceptably extending their dangers far into the future. As Western Governors we are committed to cleaning up these sites as expeditiously as possible.

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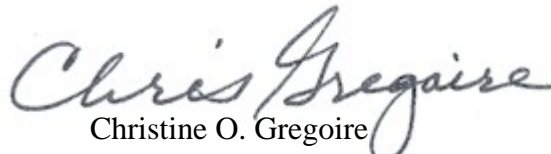
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We believe you share our understanding of the magnitude of the DOE's cleanup tasks and urge you to continue the progress by ensuring the FY 2012 budget for the EM program is fully funded. Reduced or unreliable funding will likely result in increased costs in out years from site contamination spreading as well as failures to comply with binding commitments made to states.

Sincerely,



C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho  
Chairman



Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor of Washington  
Vice Chair

cc: House Appropriations Committee Members  
Western House Delegation  
Steven Chu, Secretary of Energy  
Ines Triay, Assistant Secretary, DOE Office of Environmental Management