



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor of Washington
Vice Chair

Pam O. Inmann
Executive Director

Headquarters:
1600 Broadway
Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202

303-623-9378
Fax 303-534-7309

Washington, D.C. Office:
400 N. Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 388
Washington, D.C. 20001

202-624-5402
Fax 202-624-7707

www.westgov.org

May 13, 2011

The Honorable Jacob "Jack" Lew
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Lew:

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

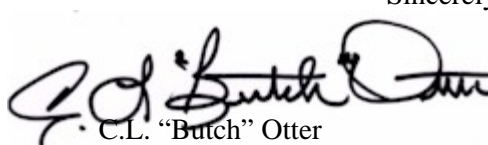
You are well aware of the nation's legal obligations to clean up and remediate the federal nuclear weapons manufacturing and testing sites across the nation. Equally important to the citizens of our respective states are the environmental benefits provided by this proven program to resolve the effects of the Cold War legacy of the U.S. nuclear weapons production operations. DOE's EM program is necessary for the Administration 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 President's strong commitment to cleaning up the designated contaminated sites was demonstrated by his well-reasoned EM budget request last year. With the President's support of EM funding in the FY 2012 budget development, consistent with his previous requests, 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.

We share the President's understanding of the magnitude of the DOE's cleanup tasks and urge him 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, WGA


Christine O. Gregoire
Governor of Washington
Vice Chair, WGA