

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2014

The Honorable Ernest Moniz
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary;

We write regarding the recent announcement that nearly 700 workers employed on the cleanup of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant could be laid off by October of this year. If these layoffs are allowed to occur it will be a significant economic blow to southern Ohio, as such we would like to work with you to provide the resources necessary to maintain the workforce and continue the progress made on cleanup efforts.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has worked collaboratively with the Piketon community to develop an aggressive cleanup strategy that would see the project completed by 2024, improve the environmental footprint of the site, prepare the site for reindustrialization, save taxpayer dollars and maximize employment levels. But last week's announcement puts the Department of Energy's previous efforts in jeopardy. If DOE fully exercises the layoffs, it would mean a loss of one-third of the current workforce. This would significantly delay the completion date for the project which would inflate the project's cost and force taxpayers to pay billions more to complete the same amount of work.

House and Senate Appropriators are currently working on both a Continuing Resolution and a budget supplemental. We request your support in advocating within the Administration and with Members of Congress to forestall the proposed layoffs at the site.

Congress charged DOE with the responsibility of remediating gaseous diffusion sites in the Energy Policy Act of 1992. Since 2005, DOE's office of Environmental Management has been overseeing the cleanup work in Piketon, Ohio. In 2009, DOE made a Secretarial commitment to the community to accelerate the cleanup in an effort to jumpstart the local economy and create jobs. The project currently employs 1,900 individuals and DOE has estimated that the cleanup will be completed in 2024.

Thank you for continuing to work with the Ohio delegation on this matter. We look forward to working with you to ensure the site is cleaned up safely and expeditiously.

Sincerely,



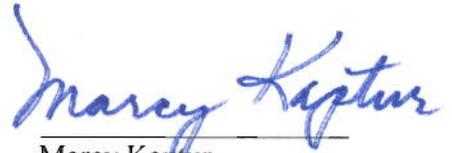
Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator



Rob Portman
U.S. Senator



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress