

Alliance for Nuclear Accountability

Dear Senator/Representative:

May 2017

Thank you for meeting with a delegation from the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA), a national network of organizations working to address issues of nuclear weapons production and waste cleanup.

Please review the **ANA 2017 Report: Accountability Audit** for more information about reducing risks and saving billions across the U.S. nuclear weapons complex.

Below please find top priority policy recommendations from the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability. For more information about ANA and to download a copy of **Accountability Audit**, please see www.ana.nuclear.org.

Policy Recommendations: Nuclear Waste and Cleanup

Solutions begin with accountability

- Congress *should* exercise rigorous oversight over the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) using its power of the purse and investigatory authority to compel satisfactory performance from DOE, NNSA, and contractors.
- Congress *should* strengthen whistleblower protections to hold contractors accountable.

Meeting the cleanup challenge

- Congress *should* make protecting communities and cleaning up the environment a higher priority over spending on nuclear weapons.
- Congress *should* fund a strong regulatory framework to protect public and environmental health at DOE sites and ensure that DOE fulfills its agreements with host states.

High-level waste—an urgent threat

- Worker safety and health protection must be the DOE's first priority.
- Construction of new waste tanks at the Hanford Reservation should begin immediately.
- Work on the Waste Treatment Plant at Hanford should be halted.

Nuclear waste—Safeguard in place

- Congress *should not* fund consolidated interim storage or the proposed Yucca Mountain repository for commercial spent fuel or a defense high-level waste-only repository. Instead, Congress, DOE, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) *should* require the nuclear industry to transfer spent fuel into hardened onsite storage (HOSS).

New nuclear ideas, same old problems

- Congress *should not* provide bailouts, subsidies, or loan guarantees to the nuclear power industry, including for small modular reactors.

MOX: A case study in waste

- Congress *should not* fund the Mixed-Oxide Fuel (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility. Congress *should* fund secure plutonium storage at the Savannah River Site and require DOE to begin an expedited environmental study of disposition alternatives, including immobilization.

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Policy Recommendations: Nuclear Weapons

Stop overkill nuclear weapons production

- Congress *should* withhold funding for expanded plutonium pit production (nuclear weapons cores) until stockpile requirements are documented, dangerous nuclear criticality safety and waste handling and treatment issues are resolved, and required public review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is conducted.
- Congress *should* pause funding for the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF) at Oak Ridge until there are realistic and independently validated cost estimates, a required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review is conducted, and the need for replacement of the nuclear weapons components produced at UPF is documented.

Restrain risky and expensive new nuclear weapons

- Congress *should* require that Life Extension Programs (LEPs) be limited to maintenance of existing designs, and remanufacturing of parts that hew to original specifications.
- Congress *should* constrain fiscal year 2018 funding for the W80-4 warhead, which is intended for the Long-Range Stand Off (LRSO) missile. Congress *should* also consider elimination of both the W80-4 and LRSO missile.
- Congress *should* require a NATO cost-sharing agreement for the B61-12 before additional funds are expended.
- Congress *should* maintain the current delay in funding until fiscal year 2020 for the Interoperable Warhead-1. Congress *should* consider its cancellation after completion of an investigation into the warhead's risks and costs.

Reduce nuclear weapons use and proliferation dangers

- Members of Congress *should co-sponsor* the "Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017" (HR 669 – Rep. Lieu, S. 200 – Sen. Markey).
- Congress *should* increase funding for weapons dismantlements, which increases security, saves taxpayers' money, and demonstrates global nonproliferation leadership.
- Congress *should* increase funding for nuclear nonproliferation programs that help keep nuclear materials from terrorists and develop arms control monitoring technologies that are crucial to national security.

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