

April 28, 2022

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary of Energy
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Vacating the Rescission of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer's Security Clearance

Dear Secretary Granholm,

On behalf of the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA), I am writing to request that the United States Department of Energy (DOE) vacate the 1954 decision not to reinstate Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer's security clearance. ECA represents several of the communities that have hosted and supported national security missions, including Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, and Hanford.

During World War II, Dr. Oppenheimer served as the civilian head of the Manhattan Project, playing a key role that contributed to victory in the war and led to the establishment of the Los Alamos National Laboratory. However, in 1954, his security clearance was not reinstated following a flawed, politically motivated hearing by the Atomic Energy Commission.

Today, correction of this miscarriage of justice is widely endorsed, and DOE has an opportunity to correct the record. Historians of the Manhattan Project era, Los Alamos National Laboratory Fellows, the current LANL as well as all living past Directors support vacating the decision. The Los Alamos County Council adopted a resolution in April 2022, expressing the same sentiment. Furthermore, the United States Senate and President Lyndon B. Johnson have both acknowledged Dr. Oppenheimer's service to the nation, recognizing his contribution to theoretical physics on the 100th anniversary of his birth and awarding him the Enrico Fermi Medal, respectively. In 2016, DOE even created the Oppenheimer Science and Energy Leadership Program.

Dr. Oppenheimer's contributions to science paved the way for the important work conducted at laboratories in our communities today. DOE can correct this historical wrongdoing by taking appropriate action to vacate the 1954 decision.

Sincerely,



Mayor Brent Gerry
Chair, Energy Communities Alliance