

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 06, 2007

The Honorable Clay Sell
Deputy Secretary of Energy
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are very concerned about the status of nuclear science and engineering (NSE) education in the United States. We believe DOE must provide base funding for university-based NSE programs in a manner consistent with federal stewardship of other academic disciplines. Such funding is critical to ensuring we have the highly skilled technical workforce we need to address future energy and national security challenges. To this end, we supported a provision in the America COMPETES Act (Section 5004) which was signed into law by the President in August. Section 5004 provides:

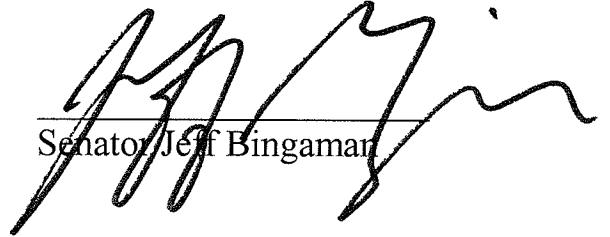
- Significant grant assistance to universities for establishing new academic programs in nuclear science and engineering, with the goal of increasing the number of graduates in the field;
- Merit-based scholarships for students studying in the fields of nuclear science, nuclear engineering, nuclear chemistry, radio chemistry and health physics; and,
- Grants to existing university nuclear science programs for the purposes of improving laboratory, instrumentation, and other hands-on learning resources, and recruiting new faculty.

We strongly urge you to place a priority on nuclear education and include the fully authorized level of \$12 million for this initiative in your fiscal year 2009 budget request.

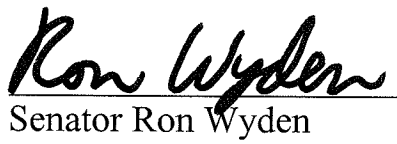
Sincerely,



Senator Larry Craig



Senator Jeff Bingaman



Senator Ron Wyden



Senator Mary Landrieu



Senator Mike Crapo



Senator Lisa Murkowski