

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 26, 2017

The Honorable Rick Perry
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Perry,

We write to you today to ask for information on the number of jobs that would be eliminated at Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory if the President's Budget Request (PBR) for Fiscal Year 2018 were to be enacted.

Our National Laboratory system supports a world-class workforce of research scientists, engineers, and support personnel who work as teams on long-term solutions to address some of the nation's greatest challenges. Moreover, our National Labs play a unique and critical role in supporting the next generation of American scientists and researchers, including thousands of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers at hundreds of U.S. institutions who depend upon DOE Office of Science facilities for their research and training.

We recognize that we must set priorities and make smart, strategic decisions about federal funding. But we also have serious concerns about the priorities this Administration appears to be setting. From economic stagnation and dependence on foreign energy to curing diseases and addressing threats to our national security, scientific research is the foundation for the innovative solutions that will enable us to overcome many of our greatest challenges. Instead, we fear that the funding levels requested in the FY18 PBR would cause permanent damage to our research infrastructure and force our National Labs to lay off critical scientific staff. This is no way to keep America great or maintain our position as a leader in science and innovation.

We cannot properly evaluate the full impact of the FY18 PBR until we know how many National Laboratory employees would lose their jobs if these funding levels were enacted. We understand that these calculations are routinely made as part of the budget planning process and so we appreciate your detailed response by June 2, 2017.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



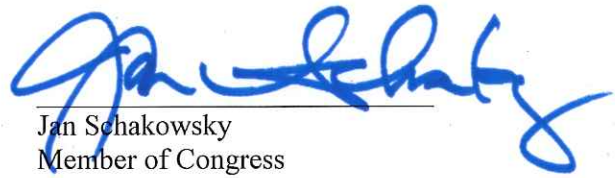
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



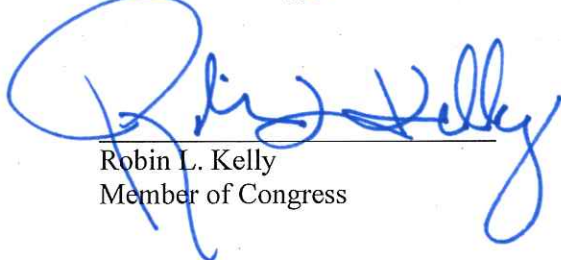
Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress



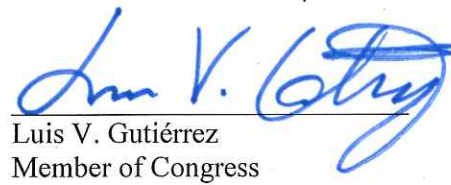
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress




Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
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Cheri Bustos
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress