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,

[Signatures]

Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

Daniel W. Lipinski  
Member of Congress
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

Rubin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

Bobby Rush  
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

Bradley S. Schneider  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress