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August 19, 2014

The Honorable Ernest Moniz
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We wrote you on July 24, 2014, with concern over the announcement that nearly 700 workers at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant could be laid off by October of this year. As we have repeatedly urged, the Department of Energy must come forward with a plan that forestalls the proposed layoffs at the site and keeps the D&D cleanup project on track to be completed.

As such, we are writing to request that you come to Piketon, Ohio, and tour the facility before the impending layoffs on October 1st. This site is critically important to southern Ohio and merits the Department of Energy's immediate attention. The size and scope of this project are significant, and the cleanup needs are not fully appreciated until viewed in person. The workers and the community deserve answers as the Department's lack of clarity leaves the region facing serious economic uncertainty.

Your visit to the site is critical to explaining the Department's plans to maintain full employment at the site to a community that has labored for the DOE since 1952. At this time, there is a notable absence of a DOE presence within the community. A visit from the DOE Secretary to explain the Department's immediate and long-term plan for keeping cleanup efforts on track would speak volumes to our constituents and boost the workforce's morale. We look forward to joining your site visit and working with you to ensure the site is cleaned up safely and expeditiously.

The Department of Energy must keep its commitment to a timely cleanup effort. The site must be cleaned up safely, quickly, and without costly and unnecessary layoffs that jeopardize the project's success. Again, we urge that you personally visit the Piketon facility. We stand ready to join you at a time and date that fits your schedule.

Sincerely,



Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress