

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 7, 2015

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

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable John Holdren
Director
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President
725 17th Street NW, Room 5228
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Secretary Moniz, Director Donovan, and Director Holdren:

We write to request your continued support to advance the Department of Energy's Long Baseline Neutrino Facility (LBNF) as you prepare the Fiscal Year 2017 budget. LBNF is critical to maintaining U.S. leadership in fundamental scientific discovery and technological development.

As you may know, in May 2014, after more than a year of study and debate, the High Energy Physics Advisory Panel identified LBNF as the highest priority domestic construction project in the Particle Physics Project Prioritization Panel (P5) report. LBNF would be the most powerful tool in the world to study particles called neutrinos, the next frontier for American leadership in particle physics.

There is also significant support for this project in Congress. The House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held a Subcommittee on Energy hearing on June 10, 2014, where the Committee favorably reviewed the P5 recommendations and realized the leadership role the United States could have in this field. In the FY 2016 Views and Estimates submitted to the Budget Committee by the Science Committee, and signed by every member of the Majority, the Committee acknowledged: "SC's record of excellence in managing world-class research facilities, which deliver revolutionary breakthroughs in numerous scientific disciplines. Accordingly, the Committee believes the Office of Science should be the highest priority for DOE R&D programs and should be the focus for any available increases." The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015, passed by the House in May, provides an increase in

authorized funding for the Department of Energy's High Energy Physics [HEP] program that makes LBNF and other HEP projects possible. In the Committee Report for the House-passed FY 2016 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill, the Committee recognized "the importance of [LBNF] to maintaining American leadership in the intensity frontier and to basic science discovery of the neutrino and standard model physics."

Neutrinos are one of the least understood particles and uncovering their structure and behavior may lead to surprising technological advances, as well as educating and training the best and brightest students. To study the properties of neutrinos, the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Illinois would produce an intense beam of neutrinos, which would travel 800 miles across the United States to a deep underground lab at the Sanford Underground Research Facility in South Dakota.

Given the strength of the U.S. program, other countries have abandoned plans to build their own neutrino facilities and are prepared to contribute financially to LBNF. While the United States has traditionally been a significant contributor to many international projects, we were especially encouraged by the new agreement between the United States and the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) signed on May 7, 2015. For the first time in its history, CERN agreed to spend funds outside of Europe and invest in LBNF. The United States should seize on this unique opportunity to attract foreign investment.

In addition, in less than a year, more than 770 scientists from 150 institutes and 26 countries stand ready to contribute scientifically to LBNF, which will be the largest international project ever hosted on U.S. soil; this number is only expected to grow. Some of the best scientific minds from this country and from around the world are ready to come to work on this project, which will only elevate the scientific standing of the United States.

For these reasons, we ask that you provide robust funding in the Fiscal Year 2017 budget request to advance construction of LBNF.

Sincerely,



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



Lamar Smith
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Kristi Noem
Member of Congress