

June 3, 2022

Representative John Garamendi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2368 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Attention: Armed Services Staffer

**Oppose authorization for unjustified, costly “Plutonium Bomb Plant” at Savannah River Site**

Dear Representative Garamendi,

As you are a key member of the Armed Services Committee, I want to express my concern about pursuit of a costly new nuclear bomb factory — to make plutonium “pits” for new nuclear weapons — by the U.S. Department of Energy at the Savannah River Site (SRS) in South Carolina. I ask that you oppose continued authorization for this dangerous and unjustified facility that poses a risk of a new nuclear arms race and which could unacceptably result in yet more plutonium being stranded in South Carolina.

Toward the goal of reducing threats posed by nuclear weapons, I request that you support efforts to:

- **Eliminate the Congressional requirement that DOE produce 80 plutonium pits per year (ppy) by 2030, a date which they have admitted can’t be reached.** The 80 ppy figure is driving dubious efforts for an unneeded second pit plant and would result in an excess of pits.
- **Reject authorization of the funding request for Fiscal Year 2023 for the SRS pit plant - \$758 million for the pit plant and support activities, plus an additional \$500 million requested by the Nuclear Weapons Council, for a stunning total of \$1.25 billion.** This amount must be cut.
- **Conduct long-delayed investigations and hearings into the failed plutonium fuel (MOX) project at SRS, on which \$8 billion or more was wasted.** As part of this effort, please request all documents from DOE related to “lessons learned” by the MOX debacle. If details are not known about DOE and MOX contractor management failures, the pit plant may also be set up for failure.

The SRS Plutonium Bomb Plant would cost an estimated \$11 billion or more, which the country can ill afford. This is on top of the \$8 billion sunk into the failed MOX project, making the true pit plant cost around \$20 billion, or one of the most expensive buildings in U.S. history. As you know, DOE cost estimates are notoriously bad and the cost is certain to rise and the schedule is certain to slip further.

In conclusion, I ask that the House Armed Services Committee reject authorization of the SRS Plutonium Bomb Plant, a facility not required by law, and terminate this costly and misguided endeavor. Thanks for your leadership in this important matter concerning our collective security.

Sincerely,