



## AIKEN COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

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February 6, 2013

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Mixed Oxide (MOX) Project  
Savannah River Site  
Aiken County, South Carolina

Dear President Obama:

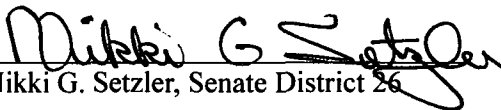
We are writing you concerning the importance of the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Project, which is administered by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Energy. Construction of the MOX project started in 2006 and is over halfway completed at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site located near Aiken, South Carolina.

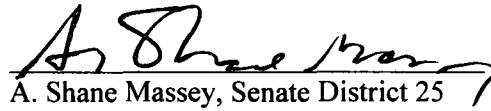
Our understanding is that continued funding of this project is in jeopardy. Cancellation of this project will be devastating not only to our community but to the nation as follows:

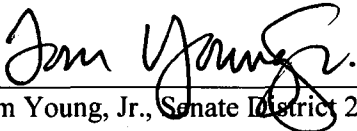
1. **Cancellation means the United States will renege on the September 2000 non-proliferation agreement with Russia** possibly leading to more nuclear weapons and not less;
2. **Cancellation will cause South Carolina to become the *de facto* permanent "dumping ground" for the Nation's stockpile of surplus weapons-grade plutonium** with no other site willing or able to accept tons of non-pit plutonium for indefinite long-term term storage;
3. **Cancellation will cause the layoff of a significant portion or all of over 2,000 workers currently working on the MOX and Waste Solidification Building Projects at SRS** causing economic distress to Aiken County and the surrounding South Carolina and Georgia communities.

We strongly urge the Administration to consider the implications of the above and to fully fund the MOX Project and NNSA's Office of Fissile Material Disposition.

Sincerely,

  
Nikki G. Setzler, Senate District 26

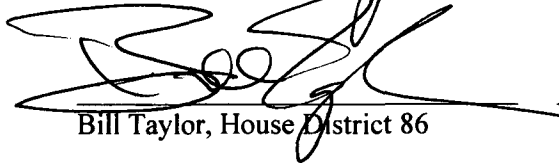
  
A. Shane Massey, Senate District 25

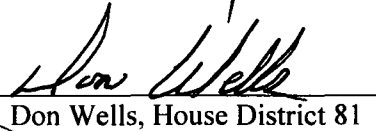
  
Tom Young, Jr., Senate District 24

  
Roland Smith, House District 84

  
William Clyburn, House District 82

  
Bill Hixon, House District 83

  
Bill Taylor, House District 86

  
Don Wells, House District 81

Cc: Dr. Steven Chu, Secretary of Energy, US Department of Energy  
Jeffery Zients, Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget  
Daniel E. Poneman, Deputy Secretary of Energy, US Department of Energy  
Niele L. Miller, Acting Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration