



TED STRICKLAND
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

August 4, 2010

The Honorable Steven Chu
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

As our nation's top scientist, you no doubt understand the importance of nuclear energy to our country's future. Central to the expansion of nuclear's place in the energy portfolio is the increased production of enriched uranium. As you know, USEC has developed its American Centrifuge technology as the next generation of low-cost, energy efficient uranium enrichment. DOE first began development of centrifuge technology years ago, and now, with USEC's updated application for a loan guarantee, DOE has the opportunity to bring this domestic technology to commercial operation.

As you and I have discussed on numerous occasions, the American Centrifuge project is not only critical to our national interests, but also vitally important to the regional economy of Southern Ohio. Pike County, the home of DOE's Portsmouth Site, and its neighboring counties have a rich history of supplying a dedicated and patriotic workforce to advance our nuclear energy needs. It goes without saying that the more than 1,600 direct jobs, and 1,500 indirect jobs this project would create, will be welcomed by Ohioans. These Ohio jobs are just part of the nearly 8,000 direct and indirect jobs that USEC expects to create nationwide through construction and operation of the American Centrifuge project.

Mr. Secretary, your department has demonstrated its recognition of the need to increase the production of enriched uranium through the award of a loan guarantee to AREVA and by reallocating \$2 billion from the department's budget to award a second loan guarantee. Further, DOE has demonstrated its commitment to ensuring that a viable, domestic uranium enrichment technology is developed by USEC by awarding \$45 million to USEC in March to continue American Centrifuge activities. Now, DOE should quickly move to approve USEC's application for a \$2 billion loan guarantee.

Most important to the people of Southern Ohio is a timely decision by DOE on USEC's application. The Department of Energy and other federal agencies are already familiar with the application. In fact, USEC submitted the first iteration of its application two years ago this month. Lastly, with the news of a \$200 million strategic investment by two industry leaders—

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Babcock & Wilcox and Toshiba - once a conditional commitment is made by DOE, there is even greater reason to move expeditiously.

I have been a strong advocate of the American Centrifuge Project since my days in Congress representing Pike, Scioto, Ross and Jackson counties. As Governor, I continue to join the people of Southern Ohio in advancing this economic development priority. I hope that we can soon join together to announce that this long-planned project will become reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Strickland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "T".

Ted Strickland
Governor, State of Ohio