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U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

April 18, 2019

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The Honorable Bruce Hamilton
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
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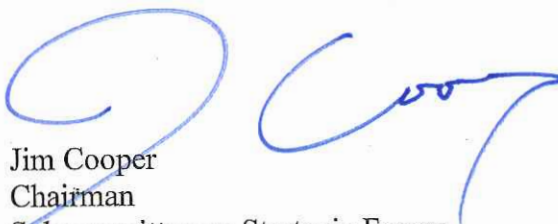
Dear Mr. Hamilton:

Thank you for appearing before the House Armed Services Committee Subcommittee on Strategic Forces on Tuesday, April 9, 2019. Your participation added a valuable perspective to the committee's understanding of "Fiscal Year 2020 Priorities for Atomic Energy Defense, Nonproliferation, Safety, and Environmental Management." As you know, the entire hearing was transcribed and will be published as part of the hearing record.

Enclosed you will find a copy of questions which have been submitted for the record. As this information is of great value to the committee, I ask that your responses be provided to Zach Taylor of the committee staff at Zachary.taylor@mail.house.gov, by Tuesday, May 24, 2019. If the committee has not received your responses by this date, the hearing publication will be printed with an appropriate notation. The committee requests that any responses that are not provided by the suspense date of May 24, 2019, be provided as soon as possible.

Again, I appreciate your participation.

Sincerely,



Jim Cooper
Chairman
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

**QFR submitted by Cooper, Jim
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
FY20 Priorities for Atomic Energy Defense, Nonproliferation, Safety
and Environmental Management
Tuesday, April 9, 2019**

Question for: The Honorable Bruce Hamilton

7) Mr. Hamilton, in your testimony you noted that the four waste drums at the Idaho Advanced Retrieval Project which exploded were a "near miss," and that there was "some degree of luck that nobody was there to get hurt." Yet you were the one Board Member to vote against the Board's recommendation, which simply requested additional information from the Department. Why? Further, you note that there is uncertainty around what is in the last 10% of drums left for processing. What gives you confidence that this—or something worse—will not occur again, particularly given the uncertainty around the material in the remaining drums and poor record keeping at Rocky Flats, where the drums originated?

No Answer

**QFR submitted by Garamendi, John
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
FY20 Priorities for Atomic Energy Defense, Nonproliferation, Safety
and Environmental Management
Tuesday, April 9, 2019**

Question for: The Honorable Bruce Hamilton

10) Given the cancellation of the MOX facility and the plan to repurpose the facility, what role do you envision for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board throughout design, construction, and operation? What is the plan and timeline for DNFSB oversight?

No Answer

**QFR submitted by Horn, Kendra S.
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
FY20 Priorities for Atomic Energy Defense, Nonproliferation, Safety
and Environmental Management
Tuesday, April 9, 2019**

Question for: The Honorable Bruce Hamilton

11) Mr. Hamilton, in your testimony before the Committee you stated that the Board's work during the ramp up of activity in the nuclear complex will make your job easier due to newer facilities coming on line to replace older Manhattan Project-era ones.

1. Please detail the specific facilities, including planned facility start dates, that are coming online that you believe will make the Board's work easier. 2. Is there not an increased Board workload from doing both safety oversight of current facilities, and ensuring future facilities are designed, built, and operated in a safe manner? 3. Further, with regard to DOE's Environmental Management work, how does the Board plan to do safety oversight as new facilities at Savannah River and Hanford come online? 4. How do you plan to incorporate all this additional work while reducing the planned number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs) from your FY2019 request of 117 to 100 FTEs for FY20?

No Answer