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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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August 10, 2009


The Honorable Sam Nunn
Chairman
Nuclear Threat Initiative
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, 7th Floor
Washington D.C. 20006

Dear Senator Nunn:

After twenty-one years as a founding member, Dr. A.J. Eggenberger, who served initially as Vice Chairman and ultimately as Chairman of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, is retiring to South Carolina. It is crucial that the President nominate someone to succeed him who is of superior technical competence. You will recall that the statute establishing the board, 42 U.S.C. §2286 (b)(1), states that Board Members must be "respected experts in the field of nuclear safety with a demonstrated competence and knowledge relevant to the independent investigative and oversight functions of the Board."

If you have occasion to discuss the Board appointment with the President or Secretary Chu, it might be appropriate to stress this issue of competence. I personally am concerned that a nominee without such qualification would be injurious to the mission of the Board.

Best regards,


John E. Mansfield
Vice Chairman, Ph.D.