Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur,

We are requesting that the Committee support continued construction of the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MOX) at the Department of Energy – Savannah River Site. We request funding at the House passed FY16 level of $345,000,000.

The MOX facility is nearly 70 percent complete according to the U.S. government – certified earned value management system process. The project is essential to the United States nuclear nonproliferation goals and to uphold the Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement signed in 2000 with the Russian Federation. The President’s budget request for fiscal year 2017 irresponsibly proposes to terminate construction of the MOX facility and to shift to a “dilute and dispose” method. This alternative continues to include numerous technical, legal, regulatory, and political challenges that the Department of Energy has failed to address adequately. The MOX facility remains the only path forward to dispose of our nation’s stockpile of weapons grade plutonium.

Additionally, we request the following language be included in the Committee’s bill:

Sec. __ (a) The Secretary of Energy shall not use any funds for Fiscal Year 2017 or prior year appropriations to assist, investigate, study, hire contractors or subcontractors to implement any strategies or actions that would lead to the cold standby or termination of the MOX facility. The Secretary of Energy shall use the funds described only for the continued construction and project support activities of the MOX facility.

We thank you for your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to ensure the success of the MOX project.

Sincerely,

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress