

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

The Honorable Ernest Moniz
Secretary of Energy
Forrestal Building
Washington, DC

Dear Secretary Moniz:

We are very concerned regarding the Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management's (DOE-EM) funding level at the Savannah River Site (SRS). DOE has greatly reduced funding for the liquid radioactive tank waste at SRS which penalizes the important remediation progress that has been achieved at SRS over the past four years.

The 37 million gallons of high level radioactive waste that has been sitting in aging waste tanks for decades, which are beyond their design life, are South Carolina's greatest potential health risk to the people, community and environment. Remediating and closing waste tanks is critical to protecting the citizens and the environment in South Carolina. The current funding scenario will cause the federal government to miss key environmental commitments made to the state of South Carolina. Missing these important milestones will come at a cost as it will trigger \$154 million in financial penalties, which will be paid by taxpayers.

Attached, you will find a letter that you received from Catherine Templeton, Director of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, dated August 28, 2013. Director Templeton clearly explains the \$154 million in fines and penalties that the federal government may incur due to the proposed major budget reductions to the liquid radioactive waste mission at SRS.

We ask that the Department work with the South Carolina delegation to find a path toward restoring funding to the liquid waste mission. This will ensure the critical environmental cleanup continues at SRS and will save taxpayers millions of dollars. We appreciate in advance your consideration of this letter and we look forward to working together to solve these challenges.

Sincerely,



Tim Scott
U.S. Senate



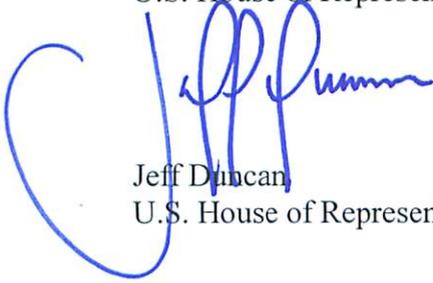
Lindsey O. Graham
U.S. Senate



Joe Wilson
U.S. House of Representatives



Mark Sanford
U.S. House of Representatives



Jeff Duncan
U.S. House of Representatives



Tom Rice
U.S. House of Representatives