

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 20, 2013

The Honorable Ernest J. Moniz
Secretary of the Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz:

We are writing to follow up on our letter of April 8, 2013 and to reiterate our strong support for continued funding from the domestic fusion energy research program for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Alcator C-Mod tokamak program in Fiscal Year 2013. We were troubled to learn that last week, as a result of budget uncertainty, MIT issued Reduction in Force notices to 35 scientists, engineers and technicians at the Alcator C-Mod facility – a Department of Energy national user facility operated by MIT. The facility is the centerpiece of the MIT Plasma Science and Fusion Center, which conducts leading research in fusion energy and is a major training site for scientists and engineers in plasma physics and nuclear engineering.

We are concerned that failing to provide funding for the facility will threaten American leadership in fusion energy research, harm the American economy in the long term, and hinder innovative efforts to develop clean, safe energy production through fusion. As you know, although the President's Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Proposal requested deep cuts to the domestic fusion research program and proposed shutting down the Alcator C-Mod facility, at no point has Congress either approved or authorized closing the facility or curtailing its activities. While the Department of Energy is funded for Fiscal Year 2013 under a Continuing Resolution, it is our understanding that it has begun the process of halting all C-Mod experiments.

We ask you to continue the Alcator C-Mod program and to restore its operations and research funding in Fiscal Year 2013.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
Senator



William M. Cowan
Senator