



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

GOVERNOR

March 14, 2013

The Honorable Daniel B. Poneman  
Deputy Secretary  
Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Deputy Secretary Poneman,

I am in receipt of your March 5, 2013 letter outlining the possible impacts to the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) as a result of sequestration. Recently, I met with Assistant Secretary Lyons and Assistant Secretary Huizenga regarding the status of the INL. Those conversations focused on the recommendation of my Leadership in Nuclear Energy (LINE) Commission to work collaboratively with the Department of Energy (DOE) to maximize the assets and mission of the Lab. I write to share two observations from our meetings that I believe will minimize the impacts of sequestration and other potential federal reductions in discretionary spending to the INL.

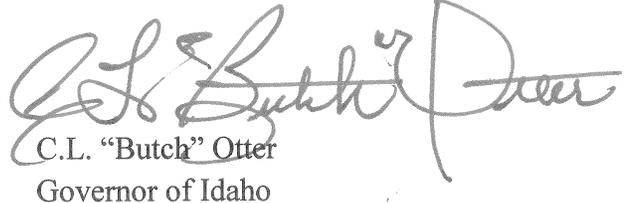
First, INL is a significant asset and Idaho is prepared to exercise leadership to ensure the Lab remains the nation's flagship nuclear research facility. As I toured the INL last week with Rick Provencher and the site contractors, it again reinforced to me the world-class facilities and exemplary workforce that resides in Idaho. I strongly believe that in times of sustained reductions in discretionary spending, the federal government can and should consolidate its nuclear work in Idaho. To this end, the state would welcome an ongoing and continued dialogue with DOE to ensure these assets are put to their highest and best use.

Second, I wholeheartedly concur with the finding of the LINE Commission that safety and the environment are non-negotiable terms for the State of Idaho. Recognizing that there will be some fiscal impact to the INL as a result of the sequestration or other holdbacks, I strongly urge the DOE to continue meeting the cleanup milestones pursuant to Idaho's 1995 Settlement Agreement. Of particular importance to the state is the continued and sustained progress on the

exhumation of buried waste. I cannot adequately underscore the importance of meeting these particular milestones.

In closing, I appreciate the continued dialogue between the State of Idaho and the DOE. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this matter, and thank you for your positive consideration.

As Always – Idaho, “Esto Perpetua”



C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho

CLO/tp

Cc: Idaho Delegation