

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 3, 2014

The Honorable Ernest Moniz  
Secretary  
United States Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz:

We are writing to express our support for the National Ignition Facility (NIF) and the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) Inertial Confinement Fusion and High Yield Campaign (ICF). As you are preparing your fiscal year (FY) 2016 budget request, we urge you to include level funding for NIF and ICF activities at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL).

NIF – a crucial platform for NNSA, LLNL and the science-based stockpile stewardship program – has recently completed its most successful year to date, achieving high impact scientific results in support of the Stockpile Stewardship Program, supporting our broader national security, and advancing scientific discovery. All of this was done while significantly increasing the efficiency of NIF operations, enhancing transparency and support for users, and adding important experimental capabilities – all at substantially reduced operating budget.

The ongoing work of LLNL and the groundbreaking research being done at NIF continue to ensure that the U.S. can abide by our nuclear test moratorium while maintaining a secure stockpile. Research conducted at NIF also helps bring us towards a new energy future as we come closer to unlocking the potential of fusion energy. To ensure the U.S. continues to lead, it is critical to build upon the substantial investments already made and provide NIF with stable funding sufficient to carry out its mission and continue to advance ICF research.

We are grateful for your strong support of the stockpile stewardship program and ask that as you craft your FY 2016 budget request you will keep the role and importance of NIF in mind. We look forward to working with you to maintain our nuclear stockpile and advance the frontiers of energy and scientific discovery through ICF research and development.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress