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*Congress of the United States*  
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March 29, 2007

Honorable Samuel Bodman  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Bodman:

The Department of Energy's decision to elevate its security force requirements at nuclear facilities in the post-9/11 era is having an unintended and adverse consequence on the employability of a portion of the security forces at key nuclear weapons facilities.

The Department's decision to shift to an elite security force--which mirrors a paramilitary model--will cause the displacement of a significant number of the members of the security workforce at the Pantex facility.

The displacement of these loyal workers needs to be addressed in a responsible and compassionate manner without compromising our security posture. There is an opportunity for the Department to use its legal authorities to address and mitigate the legitimate concerns raised by the workforce and to treat people with basic human decency.

The responsibility for remedying this problem rests with at least three organizations within DOE: NNSA, the Office of Legacy Management and the Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS). We appreciate that the HSS Director has recognized there is a problem which needs to be addressed and has elevated this concern. However, given the lack of concrete agency action to this point in time, we believe more needs to be done to coordinate Departmental elements to find a solution in cooperation with the workforce.

Creative options in the deployment of the offensive and defensive security postings may provide some daylight. The Worker and Community Transition provisions in the FY 93 Defense Authorization Act provide the Department with tools and obligations to minimize social and economic impacts from changes to the workforce. In addition, the workforce could be absorbed into other employment opportunities at Pantex. There may be other options.

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The President of the National Council of Security police has written to the Department and they have briefed me regarding the potential for significant workforce displacement driven by DOE security policy changes. Serious allegations have been raised about BWXT's non-compliance with Order 470 at Pantex that are leading to a degradation of security. Concerns have also been raised about BWTX's implementation of DOE Order 470 and whether this conflicts with the Pantex Guards' Union contract. Questions regarding high turnover may be linked to DOE contractor human resources policy, and exacerbated by pension concepts embodied in the withdrawn DOE Notice 350.1.

What is clear is that DOE and NNSA need to intervene to address the policy issues raised by the security workforce.

I would appreciate your personal attention in coordinating the necessary Departmental elements to fix this problem over the next few weeks. I also request a briefing from NNSA, HSS and Legacy Management on the Department's approach no later than Friday, March 30.

Please feel free to contact me or my Chief of Staff Scott Schloegel at 202-225-4735 if you have any questions and to set up an appointment.

Sincerely,



BART STUPAK  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

BTS/sps