



LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
25TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

April 19, 2013

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
House Committee on Appropriations
2362 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Kaptur:

I am writing to request your support for an important programmatic initiative in the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY 14) Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. Specifically, I request your support of the funding for the Laboratory for Laser Energetics (LLE) within the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

The LLE is a unique national resource and one of the crown jewels of New York State. As home to two of the world's largest, most powerful lasers for high-energy density physics research, the LLE is a vital component of our nation's scientific capital and leadership, a key to strategic work on an independent energy future, a leader in developing innovative approaches to enhancing our national security, and a crucial part of New York's high-tech economy.

The inertial confinement fusion (ICF) program and high-energy-density physics (HEDP) programs are key elements of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Ignition Campaign (NIC) and Stockpile Stewardship Program (SSP) to "ensure the preservation of the core intellectual and technical competencies of the United States in nuclear weapons" (PL 103-360). The OMEGA laser facility at the University of Rochester's LLE is used by the University, the three National weapons laboratories (Los Alamos, Sandia, and Livermore), and several universities as part of the National Laser User's Facility program for ICF and HEDP experiments. LLE is the only major ICF facility that trains graduate students in inertial fusion. The Omega Facility includes a high-power ultraviolet fusion laser and the OMEGA EP (Extended Performance) laser, a high-intensity, high-energy short-pulse laser that can be operated jointly or independently to support NIC, SSP and basic science experiments in FY2014.

The Administration's budget request for this important mission area requires adjustment in the FY 14 bill. While I do not presume to suggest the top-line appropriated amounts for NNSA's Science and Inertial Confinement Fusion Ignition and High-Yield Campaigns, within the amount your subcommittee provides, I ask that you include the following report language delineating

specific programmatic funding allocations, with emphasis on the Laboratory for Laser Energetics:

Proposed FY14 Report Language:

NNSA—Weapons Activities—Campaigns

*“Inertial Confinement Fusion and High-Yield Campaign—*The Committee recommends \$xxx,xxx,xxx for the Campaign. Within these funds, \$66,950,000 shall be for the OMEGA Laser Facility at the University of Rochester, \$6,950,000 above the Administration’s request.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress