

We represent the three major laboratories for nuclear science research in the US, as well as the community of nuclear scientists in general. We first want to thank you most sincerely for the support for nuclear science that is evidenced by the appropriation for the Office of Nuclear Physics in the Department of Energy for FY2014 as well as by the President's request for FY2015 for the same office. We understand that these are very challenging times for funding in general, and we appreciate that your support for nuclear science has been outstanding, as well as crucial.

The nuclear science community, working with the Nuclear Science Advisory Committee (NSAC, which reports jointly to DOE and NSF), formulated in 2012 and 2013 a plan (the "modest growth scenario") that will maintain US leadership in this critical area of research and manpower training. We are most grateful that the Administration and the Congress have been supportive of this plan.

The NSAC plan was of necessity a "bare bones" plan, one that would preserve the critical components of the nuclear science program. However, if even modest additional resources were to be available, the additional scientific output of the overall program would be greatly enhanced. In particular, increasing the constrained operating funds at laboratories would greatly multiply the scientific output of these facilities in which the country has already made major investments.