Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 20, 2015

Shaun Donovan, Director
Office of Management and Budget
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20503

RE: FY 2016 Funding for decontamination and decommissioning (D&D)

Dear Director Donovan:

The Ohio delegation respectfully requests that the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 budget fully fund decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) operations at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio.

As you know, in recent years, D&D cleanup operations at the site have been supplemented by the sale of excess uranium. Volatility in the global uranium market has resulted in projected financial shortfalls at the site which threatened progress on the cleanup and led to the issuance of WARN notices to hundreds of workers. Thankfully, Congress and the Department of Energy were able to avert this crisis in FY 15. However, this experience makes it clear that robust funding for D&D operations at the site are more necessary now than ever before.

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Environmental Management is the federal agency responsible for cleanup of former DOE gaseous diffusion plants. In 2009, Secretary Chu made a commitment to the Piketon, OH, community to accelerate cleanup and complete the work by 2024. The project currently employees 1,900 individuals and is critical to the economy of Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Jackson counties.

As a delegation, we have repeatedly urged the Department of Energy to present a comprehensive management plan that fulfills the Secretarial commitment to the community. This plan should not rely upon the vagaries of the global uranium market. Clean-up and restoration work is critically important to southern Ohio, and merits your immediate attention to ensure financial stability, fulfill the federal obligation to the community, and sustain productivity at the site.

On behalf of the Ohio delegation, we sincerely appreciate your consideration of this request to fully fund D&D of the DOE gaseous diffusion plant at Piketon, OH.

Sincerely,

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Rob Portman
U.S. Senator

Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

Bob Latta
Member of Congress

Jim Renacci
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
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Bob Gibbs
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David Joyce
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