

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 16, 2017

The Honorable Rick Perry
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C., 20585

Dear Secretary Perry:

Congratulations on being confirmed as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). We look forward to working with you to support America's energy security and American jobs.

As we have discussed with you, the Paducah DOE site supports between 1,500-1,600 jobs in Western Kentucky and has played a vital economic role in the region for decades. We write today on behalf of the site's workers and the Paducah community to: 1) thank you for your commitment to visit the site; 2) inquire about the status of the next DOE contract to follow the current "deactivation" contract set to expire in July 2017; and 3) reiterate our support for sufficient funding in the Administration's annual budget request to Congress to support stable employment and ongoing cleanup work at the site.

Again, we are very appreciative of your commitment to visit the Paducah DOE site. We would like to begin working with your team to schedule your trip to Kentucky to tour the site and to meet with community leaders so you may see first-hand the substantial economic impact this facility plays in the Commonwealth.

We also appreciate DOE's work on new long-term contract for Paducah which is expected to follow the current three-year, "deactivation" contract, scheduled to expire in July 2017. A new, long-term contract for the next phase of work will help remove uncertainty for contract workers and make it easier to attract and retain a talented workforce in an effort to ensure projects at the site are completed in a safe, timely and cost-effective manner. Will you please provide an update on the Department's plans to execute the new long-term contract for Paducah before July 2017? Will you please also note what steps the Department is taking to minimize any potential disruptions by ensuring a smooth transition between contracts?

As we reiterated to your predecessor, the Department has decades' worth of cleanup work to perform in Paducah and we want to ensure it is executed in a way that allows for consistent, stable employment and the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars. Related to these overall goals for the facility, we support continuing deactivation and environmental remediation at an aggressive pace, and for the Administration to include sufficient funding in its annual budget request to Congress to allow this vital work to continue.

Thank you again for your commitment to visit Paducah and for your attention to the successful cleanup of the site, which is vitally important to the health, safety, and economy of Western Kentucky.

Sincerely,



Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senator



Rand Paul, M.D.
U.S. Senator

James Comer
U.S. Member of Congress