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Dr. William F. Brinkman
Director - Office of Science, SC-1
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
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Dr. Brinkman,

First, I want to thank you for your continuing support and for the frank discussion we had during this week's FESAC meeting. The reports from the two panels responding to your charge of July 2012 were discussed and approved. I will be forwarding those to you in the next few days.

It is clear that the community is upset about the current budget trajectory and the potential impact on our domestic program. At the end of the meeting, a statement to that effect was prepared and approved unanimously (17 for, 0 against, 2 recusals, 1 absent). While this statement will be found in the minutes of our meeting, I felt it was important for you to understand the views expressed by the committee without delay.

The statement reads:

- 1) The committee objects to the theme/impression that these cuts leave the program relatively unscathed and strongly cautions against claims of impactful potential at this level or lower without real study and discussion.
 - a) Specific impacts on the domestic program were noted during the meeting, these include many aspects of fusion science, plasma physics, and HEDLP research.
 - b) The damage is real.
 - c) The portents for the future are even more threatening.
- 2) If this whole discussion is in flux inside the Administration, this does not appear to be the time to make termination decisions that cannot be reversed. We are not clear on the wisdom to do lasting changes to program based on an undefined ITER profile and in the absence of an overall plan for the program.
- 3) Buy-in, cohesion of community is critical as we confront hard decisions – we don't want community to give a message different from DOE/OSC/FES
- 4) Thus we encourage FESAC charges covering

- a) Near-term crisis management; shoring up the case for domestic research while ITER is under construction
 - i) We cannot maintain a viable fusion science program on flat \$400M budget
 - ii) Once a field is shut down, you need to start over and that can take decades
 - iii) The plan should run to 2021 (ITER start): and include option and plans for the next decade
 - b) Long-term planning goals
 - i) For ITER-era Burning Plasma leadership
 - ii) For a Fusion Nuclear Science Program leading to fusion energy
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Sincerely,



Martin Greenwald
Chair, Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee

Cc: Patricia Dehmer
Edmund Synakowski
Al Opendenaker