



Chairman Mike Simpson

*Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and
Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations*

FY 2016 Budget Hearing on Weapons Activities

March 4, 2015

Opening Statement As Prepared

I'd like to call this hearing to order. Good afternoon, everyone.

Administrator Klotz, I'd like to welcome you to your first appearance before this Subcommittee and also thank you for your service to this country. I understand that you are a retired Lieutenant General in the United States Air Force with over 38 years of service and some impressive accomplishments. We look forward to hearing from you today on your vision for the National Nuclear Security Administration and your priorities in the fiscal year 2016 budget request.

General Davis, I would also like to welcome you to your first appearance before this Subcommittee and thank you for your service as well. We appreciate your attendance today.

Dr. Cook, this is your fifth time before this Subcommittee and it's a pleasure to have you back.

The President's Budget Request for Weapons Activities is \$8.8 billion, an increase of \$615 million, or 7.5%, above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level. That figure doesn't include the \$234 million in nuclear emergency response activities that were funded in this account in fiscal year 2015 but that are now proposed to be shifted to Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation in this budget request. After accounting for this shift, the request for direct support of the weapons program is \$839 million, or 10.5%, above fiscal year 2015.

The President's Budget Request for "050" defense activities is \$38 billion over the budget caps in the Budget Control Act. Those caps are essentially flat for fiscal year 2016 which means that every increase over last year's amount will have to be offset by some other activity. With the magnitude of the defense needs we are facing, tough decisions must be made. You will have to ensure that we understand the importance of every dollar you request and that we have full confidence in your ability to execute those dollars.

We must also have confidence in the NNSA's progress to implement management improvements to ensure construction projects and acquisition programs are on time and within budget. Though there have been some modest gains, serious challenges remain. The continued reliability of our nation's nuclear weapons stockpile and associated infrastructure is my highest defense priority and it is our responsibility to ensure that no more time or money is wasted on failed and unaffordable strategies. The needs of the Nuclear Security Enterprise are too great and the

mission is too important to fail. So today, we hope to get a better understanding of your strategy to accomplish this mission and transform the NNSA into an agency that delivers on its promises.

Please ensure that the hearing record, responses to the questions for the record, and any supporting information requested by the Subcommittee are delivered in final form to us no later than four weeks from the time you receive them. I also ask that if Members have additional questions they would like to submit to the Subcommittee for the record, that they please do so by close of business tomorrow.

With those opening comments, I would like to yield to our ranking member, Ms. Kaptur, for any opening comments that she would like to make.

#####