



# **Chairman Mike Simpson**

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

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**FY 2016 Budget Hearing on Naval Reactors and Defense Nuclear  
Nonproliferation Programs  
March 25, 2015  
Opening Statement As Prepared**

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I'd like to call this hearing to order. Earlier this month, we examined the nuclear weapons stockpile budget for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). This morning, we will continue our consideration of the budget request for the NNSA with a focus on the Department's two other important national security programs: nuclear nonproliferation and naval reactors.

I'd like to welcome back Administrator Klotz to testify on the budget request for the NNSA. I would also like to welcome back Admiral John Richardson and Ms. Anne Harrington. We have had many discussions about your programs in recent weeks and I look forward to your testimony today.

The President's Budget Request for the non-proliferation programs is \$1.94 billion, \$324 million above last year's level. That amount includes \$234 million for nuclear counterterrorism and emergency response programs that were previously funded within Weapons Activities. This proposed realignment is one of many changes in the budget request and we hope to hear more from you today on how the strategies for nonproliferation are evolving and will be effective in meeting today's threats.

The President's Budget Request for Naval Reactors also proposes a substantial increase. Compared to fiscal year 2015, the request is \$1.38 billion, or \$141.5 million higher. Admiral, your programs are critical in providing our naval forces with the next-generation propulsion systems that maintain our Navy's edge. I would like to discuss how those efforts are proceeding and to understand what activities in your budget request are essential to ensuring a safe and reliable nuclear fleet.

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 Members to submit any additional questions for the record to the Subcommittee 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.

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