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25 February 2003

The Honorable David L. Hobson, Chair
Sub-committee on Energy & Water Development
2346 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515-3507

Dear Representative Hobson:

We are writing to urge you to support adding \$25 million to the FY04 request for the DOE Fusion Energy Sciences Research Program, required to carry out the very recently announced Presidential decision to participate in the International Thermonuclear Reactor (ITER). These additional funds (above the FY03 & FY04 requested funding level of \$257 million) will provide the resources needed by the program to prepare for participation in ITER while maintaining and enhancing the essential fusion research efforts at U. S. universities and national laboratory research centers.

We applaud and support the recent decision by the President and the Secretary of Energy to proceed with ITER in collaboration with international partners as the critical next-step towards the development of fusion energy as a major new source of non-carbon based energy for our nation and the world. As noted recently by John Marburger to the National Academy of Sciences "...the promise of fusion energy is too great to ignore."

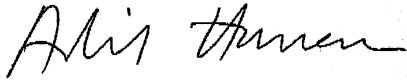
However, as has been voiced clearly by the National Academy of Sciences, the DOE Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (FESAC), and the Secretary of Energy, this critical international next-step for fusion cannot be bought at the expense of our domestic fusion research efforts. Recent statements include:

- **Sec. Abraham** [30 Jan 2003]: "...let me be clear, our decision to join ITER in no way means a lesser role for the fusion programs we undertake here at home. It is imperative that we maintain and enhance our strong domestic research program...at the universities and at our labs."
- **Nat'l Academy of Sciences** [20 Dec 2002]: "A strategically balanced fusion program, including meaningful U.S. participation in ITER and a strong domestic fusion science program, must be maintained, recognizing that this will eventually require a substantial augmentation in fusion program funding in addition to the direct financial commitment to ITER construction."

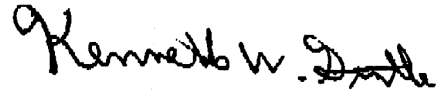
Without additional resources, carrying out the necessary preparations for ITER in FY04 with the present budget request of \$257 million (unchanged from the FY03 request) will result in destroying critical elements of the base science and technology part of the fusion program. In FY04 and in subsequent years, as we move forward with the ITER project, the necessary additional funding must be provided to ensure that there is a strong U.S. fusion program to participate in and make use of the advances we achieve in ITER.

UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS IN PURSUIT OF FUSION ENERGY
NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION ESTABLISHED IN 1979

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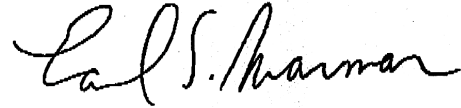
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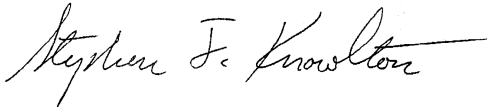
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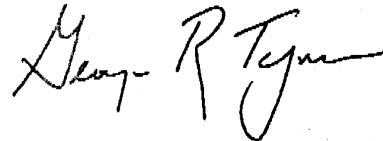
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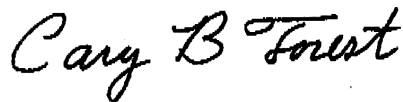
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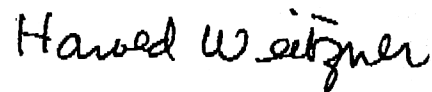
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