



**KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**  
UNITED STATES SENATOR  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510-4304

July 16, 2004

Chairman James Huffines  
Chancellor Mark Yudof  
The University of Texas System  
201 W. 7th Street, Suite 820  
Austin, TX 78701

Chairman Huffines, Members of the Board of Regents and Chancellor Yudof:

I would like to reiterate my strong support of the University of Texas (UT) System's draft bid to participate in operating the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. This partnership would apply the UT System's proven ability in academic science to the important national objective of nuclear research and development.

As a Senator, I have encouraged our higher education institutions to pursue federal research. Historically, the State of Texas has not attracted its proportionate share of federal grants and research awards. I am happy to report that this trend is improving, due largely to the increasing pool of scientific talent that resides in all of the universities in our great state. Providing federal support for this effort has been a top priority of mine. Partnering with the National Laboratory will offer unique opportunities for students and faculty.

The agreement would draw on UT's centers of excellence, while also acting as a magnet to attract new faculty and students from around the country. UT Systems nine academic and six health-related campuses would be an enormous asset to the management of the lab, and the experience for students will enhance their opportunities after graduation. By participating in this process, UT and the State of Texas would be poised to play a national role in future scientific and technological achievements.

I have repeatedly encouraged the Secretary of Energy to ensure the competitive bid process for the Los Alamos contract be conducted in a fair, open, and legitimate manner. I have every confidence this process will be just that. I am also convinced that the UT System will be among the strongest competitors to pursue this contract.

As a proud alumna, I congratulate the University of Texas System and look forward to a successful bid.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kay Bailey Hutchison".  
Kay Bailey Hutchison