



The State of Texas
House of Representatives
Austin

ELLIOTT NAISHTAT
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 49

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July 15, 2004

James R. Huffines, Chairman
The University of Texas System
Board of Regents
201 West Seventh Street, Suite 820
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Chairman Huffines and Members of the Board:

Thank you for your letter of July 9 concerning the System's potential bid to operate the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in New Mexico.

I have read the System's Fact Sheet enclosed in your letter, as well as position papers from opponents of this endeavor. There are compelling, and widely divergent, opinions on both sides of the debate. Because of this, as well as the substantial cost associated with submitting a bid to the Department of Energy, I believe it is incumbent upon the Regents to address every concern before a vote is taken to move forward in the process.

Management of the Los Alamos Laboratory is a significant undertaking and a responsibility that I know you do not take lightly. I am also certain you understand the importance of full and open debate before the task force submits its findings for the Board's consideration.

I do not believe that there has been sufficient opportunity for an open dialogue on a decision of this magnitude. The University's undertaking to manage the LANL is of such consequence that all stakeholders, including the Legislature, must be confident of the process via which your decision is made.



James R. Huffines

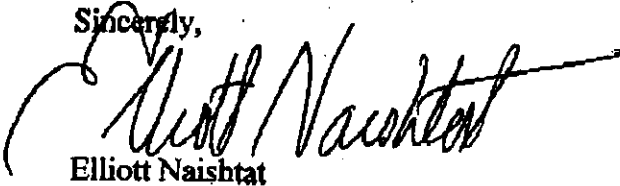
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I would appreciate your assurance that my concerns will be addressed as you proceed, and I thank you for allowing me to comment on this issue.

If I can ever be of assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elliott Naishtat", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elliott Naishtat

cc: Mark G. Yudof, Chancellor

EN/db