

JUL 13 2004 6:39PM

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

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COUNTERTERRORISM

July 13, 2004

Chairman James Huffines, Board of Regents  
Chancellor Mark Yudof  
The University of Texas System  
201 W. 7th Street, Suite 820  
Austin, TX 78701-2981

Dear Chairman Huffines, Chancellor Yudof, and members of the UT Board of Regents;

As a senior member of the House Science Committee and Chairman of the Judiciary subcommittee on Intellectual Property, I am pleased to learn that the University of Texas System is considering a bid to manage the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The Department of Energy is the single largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences, accounting for approximately 40 percent of all federal funds in this area over the past decade. This research is conducted at 15 national laboratories such as Los Alamos, the DOE research centers, and at approximately 250 universities nationwide - including UT Austin and other UT System component institutions.

As a consequence of managing Los Alamos, the UT System, faculty and students would have the opportunity to participate in and have access to the world's best science and research being conducted by the Department of Energy's network of advanced research facilities and programs. The educational, employment and economic benefits from that participation will have an enormous impact on the System, local communities, our state and the nation.

If the University of Texas System decides to complete a bid for the management of Los Alamos National Laboratory, the state of Texas will merge its considerable scientific and technological expertise with the country's most vital security interests. Such a bid would be good for Texas, our nation - and for the safe and secure future of us all.

Sincerely,

Lamar Smith  
Member of Congress

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