

SHERROD BROWN
OHIO

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY

BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS

HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 13, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington DC 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

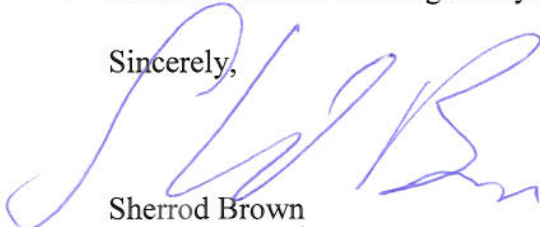
Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our nation's energy future and your stewardship of the Department of Energy's (DOE) laboratories and facilities. As our economy continues to struggle and our nation is taking on the tough task of developing new sources of low-emitting carbon energy, I want to highlight the importance of the loan guarantee application submitted by USEC Inc., a corporation headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland.

As you know, USEC is attempting to build the American Centrifuge Plant (ACP) on the site of the former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio. This project uses technology developed by the DOE and USEC and when completed, would be the only American owned and operated uranium enrichment facility in the country. Not only would this bring much needed jobs to Ohio and Tennessee, it would reduce our nation's reliance on foreign sources of enriched uranium.

I appreciate the Department's stewardship of taxpayers' dollars and agree that a loan guarantee the size USEC is seeking deserves close and careful scrutiny. As the DOE evaluates the applicants for the loan guarantee, I want to remind you of the importance of a timely decision. If successful, the ACP would solidify America's leadership in uranium enrichment technology and could create approximately 6,000 jobs across the country, including a majority of those in the hardest hit regions of Ohio and Tennessee.

I look forward to working with you in the coming weeks on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator