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United States Congress

The Illinois Delegation

Washington, D.C. 20510

March 23, 1984



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The Honorable Donald P. Hodel
Secretary, Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Hodel:

We are writing in support of the Department of Energy's fiscal 1985 budget request for initial research into the feasibility of constructing a super accelerator. The scientific community in Illinois has indicated a need for a high energy research center with capabilities that exceed those of existing facilities which will become outmoded by the 1990s. The Department's request for preliminary studies on the superconducting super accelerator are important for continuing our national commitment to basic research, which has yielded invaluable scientific and technological breakthroughs in the past.

We are aware of the scientific importance of this proposal, the economic impact of such a technologically advanced project, and the international benefits of having the world's most advanced scientific instrument. Assuming the Department's research results in a recommendation that the project is possible and costs are within the general scope of funding for high energy physics, we support and encourage the construction of a super accelerator.

Naturally, we would like Illinois to be selected as the site for this project. Experience with Argonne and Fermi National Laboratories has illustrated the scientific, technological, and economic rewards a facility like this brings to a region and to the nation. Much of the technology and infrastructure which would be needed for the project has been developed and is in place at Argonne and Fermi. The expertise available from these national laboratories, as well as strong State and local support for the project, leads us to conclude that Illinois would prove an excellent site for the super accelerator. We understand, however, that the magnitude and complexity of the project dictate that a national search be conducted to determine which site best satisfies the criteria established by the Department's study. We're confident that the search will find Illinois best-suited for this initiative.

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The Department of Energy's continued support for the Argonne and Fermi National Laboratories is greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with you in the future to support these institutions and your drive for leadership in science and technology. If we can be of any assistance as you pursue this endeavor, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Alvin J. Dixon

Dick Durbin

John

Lane Evans

Scotty Russo

Ed Mieligan

George Rubin

Henry J. Hyde

Charles H. Perry

Paul Simon

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