

OAK RIDGE
Chamber of Commerce



December 10, 2013

Chairman Peter S. Winokur, Ph.D
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Ave NW Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

1400 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830
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Dear Chairman Winokur and Members of the Board:

The Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce is an association of some 700 business interests with a mission focused on enhancing the economic vitality of the greater Oak Ridge community. The Oak Ridge community's recognized business voice, the Chamber serves as an advocate on a variety of issues. We are understandably very interested in the work of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and your interest in the Y-12 National Security Complex and the Uranium Processing Facility.

If America is to maintain an effective nuclear deterrent capability, it is essential that the work and the work product associated with that deterrent be handled safely, securely, efficiently, and economically. All strategies should point to that. All strategies should acknowledge fundamental roles to be played by the Y-12 National Security Complex and the new Uranium Processing Facility or UPF.

America's center of uranium excellence – for weapons maintenance, testing or dismantlement, for nuclear naval fuel, for medical isotopes, for downblending fuel to run modern power plants – is Oak Ridge. Our community has held that distinction for some 70 years. In Oak Ridge we have the knowledge, the talent, the culture and the community support needed for the safe operation of the Y-12 National Security Complex. However, to capitalize on that existing talent pool, to capitalize on the existing Y-12 mission and capabilities, to capitalize on a community culture that understands uranium processing at every level, it is essential that the modern UPF be built at Y-12 and built without delay.

The Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce supports the Y-12 National Security Complex. We believe in the Y-12 mission and in the enormous safety, security, and production benefits UPF can bring to the nation. Oak Ridge is proud to be the uranium processing capital of the world. We know that our skilled workforce and our community are uniquely positioned – like no other – to make the UPF a safe, secure, efficient, and economical reality for our America's national security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Parker Hardy', written over a large, light-colored scribble or watermark.

Parker Hardy, CCE
President and Chief Executive Officer