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May 21, 2013

The Honorable Ernest Moniz  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz,

On behalf of Governor Patrick, I am writing to express my support for continued funding from the domestic fusion energy research program for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Alcator C-Mod tokamak program.

The MIT Alcator C-Mod facility is an engine for research and education as well as a driver of economic growth. Funding for the facility has not only helped advance the U.S. domestic fusion energy program but, at a more local level, has created over 300 jobs, including research scientists, engineers, administrators, clerks, janitors, electricians and countless others.

I understand the severe constraints on the federal budget, but completely eliminating funding for the MIT's Alcator C-Mod facility would result in its closure, which would have negative economic implications for the region. It is also my understanding that this is directly counter to the intent of Congress, which provided adequate funding for domestic fusion research in the fiscal year 2013 continuing resolution. From a national perspective, the decision comes at a time when we need to lead with respect to innovation and the advancement of science in this area.

I understand that you have many difficult decisions to make in your new role, particularly in light of the spending reductions mandated under sequestration. I hope you will consider supporting the MIT Alcator C-Mod facility and provide the funding it needs to continue its valuable work.

On behalf of Governor Patrick, I wish you all the best in your new role. We look forward to partnering with you to advance our joint goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.