



Roxanne D. Brown
International Vice President At Large

September 30, 2024

Via E-mail

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm,

On behalf of the United Steelworkers (USW), I urge the Department of Energy (DOE) to prioritize investments in American companies like Centrus Energy as you implement the funding appropriated under the Nuclear Fuel Security Act of 2023. Given the urgent need to reduce U.S. reliance on Russian-enriched uranium, it is critical that DOE focuses on expanding domestic Low-Enriched Uranium (LEU) production, which is essential for powering the current fleet of commercial nuclear reactors and ensuring our energy security. Centrus, with its strong commitment to union labor, offers a unique opportunity to strengthen the American supply chain while creating hundreds of well-paying jobs that will benefit our economy today.

Centrus Energy is actively working to restore the United States' uranium enrichment capability, including the production of LEU needed for our existing reactors. These reactors are critical for maintaining a reliable, low-carbon energy supply. Supporting Centrus' LEU production will ensure that this key component of our energy infrastructure remains in American hands, securing our supply chain and enhancing our national security.

While LEU is the immediate priority, it is also important to consider the future needs of advanced reactor technologies. Centrus is uniquely positioned to produce High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium (HALEU), which will be vital for the next generation of advanced and small modular reactors. As these technologies develop, having a domestic supply of HALEU will be essential to the U.S. maintaining leadership in nuclear energy innovation. While our focus should be on expanding LEU production today, we must also invest in capabilities like those at Centrus that will allow us to meet the future demands of advanced nuclear technologies.

As you allocate the \$2.7 billion in funding authorized by Congress, I strongly urge you to prioritize domestic enrichment capacity over projects proposed by foreign-owned companies such as Orano. Orano's plans to expand LEU production in Tennessee, a



right-to-work state, weaken labor protections and threaten opportunities for U.S. workers. In contrast, Centrus employs union workers, ensuring that these jobs are high-quality and contribute meaningfully to American economic growth.

Given Russia's control of nearly half of the world's uranium enrichment capacity, expanding U.S. domestic capabilities is not only an economic necessity but also a matter of national security. By investing in companies like Centrus, DOE can help build a competitive and secure nuclear fuel market, creating thousands of American jobs while eliminating dependence on foreign sources of enriched uranium.

I urge you to direct critical investments toward American companies like Centrus that are committed to employing American workers and advancing U.S. energy independence. Prioritizing domestic production capacity now will ensure we meet current energy needs, while also laying the groundwork to support the advanced reactors of tomorrow.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to working with you to ensure the continued growth and security of our domestic nuclear industry.

Sincerely,



Roxanne D. Brown
International Vice President At Large
United Steelworkers