



# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **House Armed Services Committee**

### **Floyd D. Spence, Chairman**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **CHAIRMAN FLOYD D. SPENCE**

#### **STATEMENT ON H.RES. 534**

The resolution before the committee represents a bipartisan effort by a number of us to lay out the facts and express the concern of the Congress over the deplorable situation surrounding the loss of classified computer hard drives at the Los Alamos national laboratory. We have all sat in disbelief as the circumstances surrounding this event and the incredible lack of rigor in security procedures and basic accountability at Los Alamos has been revealed over the past couple of weeks.

This resolution makes a simple series of statements. First, that notwithstanding repeated assurances by Secretary Richardson to the contrary, this incident once again confirms that the culture of disregard for security at the nuclear weapons labs is alive and well. Second, that individuals charged with responsibility for policy and management of security matters at the Department of Energy, the NNSA and Los Alamos must be held accountable for this deplorable performance. Finally, that the newly installed Administrator for Nuclear Security, General Gordon, should take immediate and aggressive action to improve all policies and procedures to safeguard nuclear weapons material and information within the NNSA.

While I could go on at considerable length as to why we continue to find ourselves in such a precarious situation at the Department of Energy, in the interest of time, I will conclude by urging the strong support of the committee for this reasonable, measured response to this latest episode of negligence in safeguarding America's nuclear secrets by the Department of Energy.

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