

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

July 22, 2014

Mr. William Collins
Vice President, Local 12-369
United Steelworkers
PO Box 524
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Collins:

Thank you for your letter concerning the closure of the Hanford Waste Sampling and Characterization Facility (WSCF). It was good to hear from you.

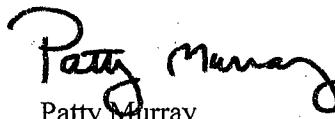
As you know, on March 19, 2014, the Department of Energy (DOE) announced that it would be closing the WSCF at Hanford. This facility was built in the 1990s to analyze radiation samples at a time when there was concern that offsite facilities could not handle this work. However, improvements in the capacity, turnaround time, and safety of such offsite facilities were a key factor in DOE's decision to close WSCF. Sampling is already being done at offsite facilities by Hanford contractors. In addition, the associated savings of \$12 million each year could be applied to additional cleanup operations at Hanford.

Like you, I am concerned about the impacts that this closure could have to the workforce at the facility. Since the announcement, I have worked with DOE and the impacted labor groups through HAMTC on how to mitigate these impacts. I have asked DOE and its contractor to do everything possible to communicate with the affected workforce, and to offer assistance with future job placement. Please know that as the situation unfolds, I will keep your thoughts in mind.

The federal government has a moral and legal obligation to clean up Hanford. As a senior member of the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over Hanford cleanup funding, I have persistently fought to push forward on these efforts. This is a pressing issue not only for our state, but for the health and well-being of the entire Pacific Northwest.

Once again, thank you for sharing your thoughts on this important issue. Be assured, as I continue to work on issues related to Hanford, I will listen to all parties and keep everyone's input in mind. If you would like to know more about my work in the Senate please sign up for my weekly update at <http://murray.senate.gov/updates>. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any additional concerns.

Sincerely,


Patty Murray
United States Senator

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