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Casey

April 30, 1957

From the Office of
U. S. Senator John O. Pastore (D) of R.I.

The attached is a copy of the letter which was sent to the President of the United States in behalf of the Honorable Thomas E. Murray, recommending his re-appointment to the Atomic Energy Commission. It was signed by the following:

SENATORS

- Clinton P. Anderson
- Richard B. Russell
- John O. Pastore
- Albert Gore
- Henry M. Jackson

REPRESENTATIVES

- Carl T. Durham
- Chet Holifield
- Melvin Price
- Paul J. Kilday
- John J. Dempsey
- James T. Patterson

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The acknowledgment to this letter was received by Representative Carl T. Durham by letter under date of April 16, 1957, signed by Mr. Sherman Adams, Assistant to the President, at the request of the President.

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March 21, 1957

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

We write this letter as members of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy in order to respectfully recommend the reappointment of Mr. Thomas E. Murray to the Atomic Energy Commission. We make this recommendation on the basis of Mr. Murray's record as known to us throughout his seven years of service.

It may be proper to list briefly some of the achievements which we regard as particularly significant:

We have been impressed by Mr. Murray's uninterrupted and successful determination to avoid all political partisanship and to keep singly in view the common good of the United States -- its military strength and its leadership in peaceful uses of atomic energy.

His contributions to nuclear defense have been important in the field of thermonuclear weapons. In 1951, with great foresight, he undertook the advocacy of a greatly enlarged program of uranium ore production. He was also the prime mover in the establishment of a second weapons laboratory at Livermore, whence came the necessary impetus that resulted in the early success, in 1952, of the thermonuclear program.

The importance of his vigorous initiative, taken in the face of great opposition, has been more than once acknowledged by his major associates in this effort, Dr. E. O. Lawrence, Chief of the Livermore Laboratory, and Dr. Edward Teller. The furtherance of continuing atomic tests also owes much to Mr. Murray in view of the major role he played in reopening the Pacific testing grounds in 1951, and in establishing the Nevada test site in the same year. In the field of small weapons, Mr. Murray has also rendered signal service by his insistent advocacy, sustained over

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the past two years, of a more rapid production program in the interests of the kind of balanced stockpile that would endow our military strength with the requisite flexibility.

Mr. Murray has been no less vigorous and far-seeing in his efforts to keep this country in the forefront of developments in the industrial nuclear power field. The credit for the initiative in the Shippingport reactor project rightly belongs to him.

Also deserving of mention are his staunch support of the "Atoms for Peace" program launched by yourself, Mr. President; his constant encouragement of reactor development programs, and his efforts toward broadening the participation of private industry in all possible phases of the nuclear energy program.

For instance, the fact that combinations of privately owned utility companies are now supplying over three million kilowatts of electric power to Atomic Energy Commission production plants is due to Mr. Murray's success, in 1950, in winning acceptance of this pattern of development.

Finally, we are confident that you, Mr. President, will share our own admiration for the intelligence and concern with which Mr. Murray has argued the profound moral issues involved in the nuclear armament program.

We have not always agreed with various recommendations that Mr. Murray has made to us over the past seven years. But we have never failed to profit by his independence of judgment.

In the new and fateful nuclear field our Committee can responsibly function only if it has the benefit of divergent views, stated by men of imagination, courage, and competence.

It is because we consider Mr. Murray to be such a man that we respectfully urge his reappointment.

Respectfully yours,

Chairman

ViceChairman

Thomas E. Murray

Commissioner
Atomic Energy Commission

1901 Constitution Avenue
Washington, D. C.