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UPTE-CWA FACT SHEET

Re-compete Management Contracts to De-privatize Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore National Labs

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Background:

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has just completed their year-long study of the effects on their scientific and national security missions of the transition to private, for-profit monopoly management of the DOE/NNSA laboratories, the Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The NAS Report is more than a year late, but its basic conclusion is inescapable. Everyone who presented testimony to the NAS Study Committee, from the Laboratory Directors on down, detailed why the transition to private for-profit management of the Labs has been detrimental. In summary, the privatization has placed the Labs' science and engineering missions in jeopardy. The focus has shifted to meeting contract performance goals and earning maximum fee, resulting in less tolerance for the open debate and discussion that is necessary both for good science and engineering and for regulatory compliance. The changed environment has affected careers through program misdirection and loss of trained personnel, and has escalated a decline in science and engineering productivity. Both Labs have suffered from a decline in recruitment and a continued loss of senior people. All of this has happened while costing taxpayers an additional 300-400 million dollars *per year*, more than half of which is in management bonuses.

Now that Congress has an answer to the question of *why* re-competing the management contracts and de-privatizing the Labs is necessary, it is time to move on to the question of *how* to accomplish this goal.

Action Requested:

Insert language into the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) requiring DOE/NNSA to re-compete the management contracts for the Labs in such a way that they are managed as public or public-private, non-profit entities operating in the public interest --- and to return their focus to their original science and national security missions.