

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 27, 1980

Dear Colleague:

Attached is a draft bill I intend to introduce to promote research and demonstration of magnetic confinement fusion. Fusion energy is one of the few known energy sources which is inexhaustible. It is essential that energy technologies using inexhaustible resources be commercially available before conventional resources are depleted.

Objectives of this Act, among others, are to:

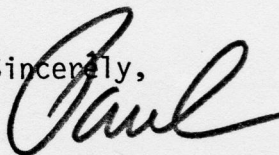
- demonstrate the engineering feasibility of magnetic confinement fusion by the early 1990's,
- achieve, at the earliest practicable time, but not later than 1990, operation of a magnetic fusion engineering device based on the best available confinement concept,
- establish operation of a magnetic fusion demonstration plant by the year 2005,
- promote broad participation by domestic industry in the national magnetic fusion program,
- develop a comprehensive program management plan for research, development, and demonstration,
- establish a technical panel to be comprised of representatives of domestic industry, universities, government laboratories, and other scientific and technical organizations to advise the Secretary, and

- strengthen existing international cooperation agreements in magnetic fusion research and development activities of mutual benefit to all parties.

This bill does not authorize any spending other than what is authorized by DOE authorization acts. It is principally a statement of national policy and program direction. This bill reflects the recommendations made by the report of the Energy Research Advisory Board, as submitted to DOE by the Board's Chairman, S. J. Buchsbaum. The Washington Post of June 24 carried highlights of the report. A copy is attached.

Since you have significant fusion research activities in your State, I invite you to become an original co-sponsor. It is my intention to introduce this bill before the recess so that the Energy Committee may hold hearings after the recess. If you have any questions or wish to be a co-sponsor, please contact Mitch Tyson, or Carol Forti, of my staff at 224-2742. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



PAUL E. TSONGAS