

From: DOECAST

Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2007 11:49 AM

To: ORO Federal Employees; OSTI Data Control; PNSO Federal Employees; TJSO Distribution List

Subject: Message from the Secretary

February 16, 2007

I have nothing but good news!

Yesterday, the President signed Public Law 110-5, which provides funding for the Department's programs through the rest of Fiscal Year 2007. Although this new law largely funds DOE at FY 2006 levels rather than at levels requested in our FY 2007 Budget, I believe this funding puts us in a solid position to achieve our goals this year. I am confident that we will be able to deliver on our commitment to strengthen America's energy security, provide for our Nation's defense and manage the legacy of the Department's activities from the Cold War.

And, on a subject that I know has been on the minds of many, the enactment of this new law has allowed us to lift the "hold" on performance-based awards and discretionary pay adjustments that we put in place several months ago, when funding for the Department in FY 2007 was highly uncertain. Depending on the budgetary situation in individual offices, which managers in individual offices will assess just as they would in any year, eligible employees will be able to receive awards and discretionary pay actions in the coming weeks. I want to convey to each of you who were impacted by the deferral how much I appreciate your understanding and cooperation while we steered our way through this budget process.

Again, thank you for your patience, your teamwork, and your commitment to the Department and its mission during what has been an uncertain budgetary period. Now that we know what our FY 2007 funding is, we can re-focus our attention on doing the peoples' business and I look forward to working with you to do just that.

I hope everyone enjoys the long President's Day weekend, and if you are experiencing weather like I am in Washington, stay warm.