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**Congress of the United States**  
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NATIONAL SECURITY

February 25, 2015

Dr. Ernest Moniz  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington D.C. 20585

Secretary Moniz,

I write with serious concerns that local law enforcement is training at the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Training Center (NTC). I am particularly concerned that the recruits and officers from the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) have access to the facilities, instructors, and classes at the NTC in light of a scathing U.S. Department of Justice report (DOJ), which found that APD engages in a pattern of unconstitutional use of excessive force, including deadly force.

The NTC uses highly trained instructors to provide military-style training to federal agents and members of the military to ensure that our nation's nuclear weapons and facilities are safe and secure. While I understand the necessity of that type of training for nuclear security personnel, I question the value of extending the same training and DOE resources to local law enforcement agencies.

In the past 5 years, APD officers have been involved in 28 fatal shootings. Meanwhile, the City of Albuquerque has paid more than \$23 million to date to settle excessive force and wrongful death lawsuits with additional lawsuits pending. In April 2014, the DOJ found that APD has an "aggressive culture that undervalues civilian safety and discounts the importance of crisis intervention" and that "this level of unjustified, deadly force by the police poses unacceptable risks to the Albuquerque community."

The DOJ has directed APD to make investments in de-escalation and crisis-intervention training that are intended to protect the health and safety of both the person in crisis and the officer involved. Those investments encourage a community-oriented mindset that supports constitutional policing practices. I fully support APD's access to this and other training that they need to protect themselves and the public. However, I question why APD recruits have the same

access to the classes and facilities as the U.S. Marine Corps Special Operations Forces, the U.S. Secret Service, and elite, specially-trained federal agents who train to protect nuclear facilities against terrorist attacks.

One former APD officer told the news media that, "I'm not sure how convoy ambushing [training] translated to working as a police officer." There are concerns that this type of training may be counterproductive to APD's goals and lead officers to view the community as adversaries rather than partners and collaborators. In fact, I understand that many of the officers involved in recent shootings investigated by the DOJ have spent time at the NTC and that the NTC employs current APD officers as instructors.

The Obama Administration has taken steps to review the militarization of police departments across the United States as well as the U.S. Department of Defense's 1033 Program, which transfers surplus military equipment to local law enforcement agencies. President Obama has stated that, "There is a big difference between our military and our local law enforcement, and we don't want those lines blurred." I could not agree more.

In light of APD's history of using force inappropriately, the military nature of NTC training, and the Administration's recent actions to review police militarization, I request that the DOE immediately suspends APD's access to NTC classes and facilities until it reviews 1) Whether it is necessary for local law enforcement to have access to classes and facilities designed for the military and federal security personnel and 2) How training local police officers furthers DOE's and NTC's mission.

Please keep my office informed about all actions that you take to address these concerns. Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and if you have any questions please contact my Chief of Staff, Dominic Gabello, at 202-225-6316.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress