

DOC HASTINGS

4TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS
OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT**
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

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**SUBCOMMITTEE ON RULES
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RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER



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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

May 3, 2007

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

I write with concern that funding committed for activities at the Department of Energy's Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center in my district has not yet been transferred to the Department of Energy by the State Department's Office of Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund. I urge the State Department to move forward with transferring the funding it has committed.

In 2005, the Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security committed funding needed to complete a classroom wing at HAMMER for State Department efforts to educate foreign officials on nuclear detection. While I am aware that the Office has other missions vital to U.S. national security, I also understand that the committed funds represent a small portion of the Office's budget within the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation. In addition, I would note that the longer the funds are held without transfer, the higher the cost will be for the taxpayer.

The Department of Energy's HAMMER facility is one of the most extensive federal hands-on training facilities in the nation and is an important contributor to security training in my district. HAMMER, in conjunction with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's national expertise on nuclear radiation detection, represents a unique national resource for federal nuclear nonproliferation efforts.

I request that the State Department take action to reconcile the funding it needs for key missions while also allowing the transfer of the funds committed to the Department of Energy's HAMMER facility. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doc Hastings".

Doc Hastings
Member of Congress