

## Testimony

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am a man from Michigan. I have a PhD, but it is in Economics, not Physics. I have much enjoyed this meeting. I am much more knowledgeable than when I came. I found your organization on the Web. I contacted Dr. Davies personal assistant, Shaida Afzal, who put me in touch with Al Opedenaker who explained about this meeting and said it was open to the public.

I have enjoyed the reports in this meeting.... They have been quite informative...I am awed.

I am here today to ask you if it is time to ask the President and the Congress of the United States to fund a crash program to put a functioning Fusion Power Plant Technology in our future by the year 2020. I think yesterday I heard the answer "yes," but I want to indicate additional reasons I believe the proposal will sell.

About a month ago, due to ABC Nightline, I read the CIA report "Global Trends 2015: A Dialogue about the Future With Nongovernment Experts"  
<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/globaltrends2015/index.html>

This report suggests that the most pressing world problems by 2015 will be food and water. It suggests that severe water shortages in China, India/Pakistan and the Middle East will lead to war. The authors never once mention fusion energy. As we know, cheap power could potentially solve many things: As a youth I spent three years on a ranch in desert California: I know how fruitful the irrigated desert can be. Later, remembering that, I dreamed of fusion energy that could desalinate the Pacific and pump it over the Sierra to make Nevada bloom. But as we all learned, harnessing fusion was not to be that easy.

Prior to coming to this meeting, I also read the August 9, 1999 SEAB report which stated on the first page:  
[http://www.pppl.gov/common\\_pics/SEAB\\_Aug99.pdf](http://www.pppl.gov/common_pics/SEAB_Aug99.pdf)

"In light of the promise of fusion and the risks from increasing worldwide energy demand and from eventually declining fossil energy supply, it is our view that we should pursue fusion energy aggressively." (Executive Summary, p 1):

I also read the November, 2000 report of the IPPA effort, which responded to a charge by Dr. Davies "to address the SEAB recommendation by preparing an integrated program plan for fusion research. ...."

Ladies and Gentlemen: there is nothing wrong with your plans and your programs except that **YOUR PLANS ARE TOO SMALL!** Let us think more than energy. It is not just that the U.S. standard of living is directly correlated with the use of energy resources. It is not just that we are consuming petroleum resources that might better be preserved for use as hydrocarbon raw materials. It **IS** that with cheap energy we would have solved both the world's energy problem and the world's potable water problem.

It seems to me that now would be a good time for this group to recommend that Democrats and Republicans join forces together to see if a bipartisan effort could be mounted that would give us a program not too unlike President Kennedy's Space program; a program that would focus our nation on developing a potentially unlimited power source for the entire world.

It is true that this program would be expensive. On the other hand, in recent testimony on January 25th, I heard Dr. Greenspan's testimony concerning his "problem" with the surfeit of surpluses. Last night we heard President Bush give his plan. Now, I am sure that there are many people telling the President and Congress how to spend that "surplus" money, but I hazard the guess that no one could identify a project that could yield as much benefit, not only to the U.S., but to the whole world, as your project. The reason I suggest that the U.S. would so benefit is that the difficulties envisaged in the CIA report would demand truly impressive military spending. That military spending probably cannot be avoided unless we can find some way to raise the level of wealth in the poorest countries. The ability to make energy almost a free good will take us a long way in that direction.

The world needs potable water.... The world needs cheap energy.... The possibilities are at hand... **YOU** can make it happen.