



SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

Affiliated with

**the University Professional and Technical Employees (UPTe),
Local 9119 of the Communications Workers Of America, AFL-CIO**

February 14, 2003

Honorable Spencer Abraham
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue S/W
Washington, D. C. 20585

Dear Secretary Abraham:

The Society of Professional Scientists and Engineers (SPSE), an independent nonprofit labor organization serving the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's professional staff, has worked since its founding in 1973 to improve the working environment at the Laboratory by promoting, protecting, and preserving employee rights. SPSE, along with the Union of Professional and Technical Employees (UPTe/CWA Local 9119) State-wide, UPTe Chapters at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), support the continuation of the University of California (UC) management of their laboratories with much needed management reform.

SPSE acknowledges that the alleged credit card and government property fraud at Los Alamos, along with allegations of LANL management cover-up as a result of the firing of two investigators, have created a crisis of confidence in the ability of the University of California to manage the Laboratories. Efforts at reform of the business practices at the Laboratories have begun by both UC and by the Laboratories' management. These events have highlighted needs for reform at the Laboratories that SPSE have long advocated.

In this regard, there is an important action you can take right now. We urge you to support the UC and Laboratories' management reform efforts, while protecting the employees who speak out. The best way to prevent recurrence of this kind of problem in the future is for the Laboratories' management, the University, and DOE to take seriously their duty to protect, rather than persecute, laboratory employees who dare to point out wrongdoing when they see it. We look forward to working with you to help us protect the rights of employees at LLNL, and to allow UC to continue to demonstrate its capability to make improvements.

Sincerely,

Sue Byars, President
SPSE