



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

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GREETINGS

I am sorry I could not join you today but I wanted to write and say how pleased I am that our state is taking the next step in realizing a working MOX facility. In doing so, I join you in welcoming Ambassador Linton Brooks of the National Nuclear Security Administration and thank him for his efforts on our behalf. I would also single out our congressional delegation for their hard work on this project, particularly Senator Lindsey Graham. Lindsey has been at the forefront of advancing the MOX project from the time we served in the U.S. House of Representatives together, and his advocacy of the Savannah River Site is even to the point of strange when I found him quizzing my youngest son, and his godson, Blake, on Savannah River missions!

This ceremony is about the future of the Savannah River Site and its hardworking employees. We hope that today's announcement is the first step towards new and expanded missions. The MOX facility will be key to increasing security for the nation and the world, as it converts weapons grade plutonium into a useable energy source. Converting weapons materials into power is the modern day equivalent of Isaiah's beating swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks.

We thank Ambassador Brooks and the Department of Energy for the trust they have placed in the workforce and the community. We believe that we can build on the historic success of production and environmental management to add even more missions in the coming years. We see SRS as a source of intellectual capital for our state and our nation. That is why we will continue to work with the congressional delegation in the pursuit of new and additional missions that best utilize the talented folks at this site – so they can continue to call South Carolina home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

Mark Sanford