June 8, 2017

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson:

As you know, multiple Members of Congress, and in particular the Michigan Delegation, have expressed their support for the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) located at Michigan State University to you. They have done so in person, in letter, and through appropriations requests.

FRIB received its first federal appropriation in FY09 and has continued to receive funding in accordance with DOE’s baseline agreement. This has allowed FRIB to reach a point today where it is 76% complete, is on schedule, and is on budget. I write today to express my concern that the President’s Budget Request for FY18 would underfund FRIB by $17.2 million.

While I certainly appreciate, and support, the need to cut back on our spending commitments, underfunding a project that is nearing completion is not the proper way to do that. Providing partial funding now would only serve to cause delays and a need for increased funding in future Fiscal Years.

I therefore, respectfully request that the Subcommittee include the baseline $97.2 million of funding for FRIB, and include report language directing the Department of Energy to work with Michigan State University to commence early operations. Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Bishop  
Member of Congress