

5 June 1958

Dear Mr. President:

It is hard for me to write this letter. Five years ago you named me Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission for a term which will expire on June 30th next. These five years have been marked by important discoveries, historic decisions and great technical advances in many areas of atomic energy development. In spite of the occupational hazards of political life, I look back upon these years and what has been accomplished with a measure of contentment.

It was a most gratifying experience for me to have you express your desire to reappoint me. However, for the reasons which I set before you sometime ago, I then believed and continue to believe that circumstances beyond the control of either of us make a change in the chairmanship of the Commission advisable. Therefore I sincerely hope that you will understand my decision.

I have had the privilege of serving our Country in various capacities since 1917 and I am glad of the years thus spent. The challenges and the occasional accomplishments have been rewarding. Especially, I am grateful for the confidence, support and friendship you have given me. I have enjoyed the companionship of my colleagues on the Commission and the cooperation of the competent and devoted staff in Washington and across the United States.

Under your leadership, great strides have been made in the whole atomic energy program in electrical energy, medicine, agriculture, industry, international cooperation, and basic science. While adding to our defensive strength with atomic weapons we have been able at the same time, by your inspiration, to convert the Atom from a symbol solely of unrelieved fear to a great instrumentality for Peace. The remembrance of such part as I have been able to take in those events will be a continuing source of satisfaction to me and a reminder of my gratitude to you as a member of your Administration and as a citizen.

Respectfully,

*Lewis STRAUSS*

The President  
The White House

*Original in James Whitcomb Files*

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