

MARK J. LESKY

(b)(6)

May 19, 2009

National Medal of Technology and Innovation
Nomination Evaluation Committee
c/o The United States Patent and Trademark Office
Attention: Jennifer Lo, Program Manager

Re: Nomination of Dr. Zalman Shapiro

Dear NMTI Committee Members:

Dr. Shapiro is a man of vision, commitment and moral fortitude. He has consistently demonstrated his love of country and community, dedicating his amazing talents to the well being of all. I have known Dr. Shapiro for almost fifteen years and have been inspired by the constancy, diversity, and depth of his contributions to our community and society. With untold enthusiasm, he focuses on implementation of innovative resourceful solutions to everyday challenges and scientific opportunities.

Dr. Shapiro's work in long-lived, nuclear-powered, cardiac pacemakers is but one of the many inventions that have helped transform our lives. As a patient of the Cleveland Clinic, having had open heart surgery in 2005, the thought of repeated surgery would be devastating. With this one sophisticated invention, the work of Dr. Shapiro has helped many patients avoid the trauma of repeated complex surgeries.

The scope of his influence can only be appreciated when one considers his visionary innovations which will have a transformative impact on the climate change issues confronting the 21st century. Through the development of the continuous process of low-cost production of uranium-oxide fuel, Dr. Shapiro was able to produce consistently reliable high-yield results enabling nuclear power to be competitive with fossil-fueled power, leading the way to a non-carbon future. (In 2008, nuclear power delivered output of more than 800 billion kilowatt-hours representing nearly 75 percent of U.S. carbon-free electricity.) This technological breakthrough is at the heart of the solution to address the challenges associated with climate change years before the issue was even identified and understood. As the Director responsible for environmental issues at NOVA Chemicals, it is clear and unequivocal that his contribution to society by this invention places Dr. Shapiro at the forefront of the American innovative spirit.

Dr. Zalman Shapiro has consistently demonstrated leadership in technological innovation-combining vision, integrity and humility despite enduring untold hardships and enormous challenges. Acknowledging his outstanding contributions to the defense and welfare of the United States, I believe he is worthy of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark J. Lesky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Mark J. Lesky, P.Geol.
Director, Responsible Care (EHS)
NOVA Chemicals

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A rectangular grey box used to redact information, likely a contact number or email address, located below the signature block.