

(FRIDAY, Dec. 16, 2022) -- Reaction of Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt., and Senate President Pro Tempore) to the decision of the Department of Energy to vacate the Atomic Energy Commission's flawed 1954 decision revoking J. Robert Oppenheimer's security clearance:

“The Atomic Energy Commission’s decision in 1954 to revoke J. Robert Oppenheimer’s security clearance was based on a manifestly unjust and unethical hearing that would be resoundingly condemned today. Robert Oppenheimer was a brilliant scientist whose indispensable role in leading the Manhattan Project is beyond dispute. He served this country in a time of great peril as no other person could have, and he remained steadfastly loyal to this country until his death. I commend Secretary Granholm for taking this important step in the interest of justice and fairness.”

“This decision also reaffirms that government scientists, whether renowned like Oppenheimer or a technician laboring in obscurity -- including those who risk their careers to warn of safety concerns or to express unpopular opinions on matters of national security -- can do so freely and that their cases will be fairly reviewed based on facts, not personal animus or politics.”

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