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NEWS RELEASE

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SENATE APPROVES \$1 MILLION FOR UTPB REACTOR

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WASHINGTON – UT Permian Basin received good news Friday when Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison announced that the full Senate has approved the Fiscal Year 2007 Department of Defense Appropriations bill. The bill includes \$1 million secured by Hutchison to support construction of a next-generation nuclear reactor at UTPB.

“The University of Texas of the Permian Basin has partnered with public and private sector entities to bring this important project to West Texas,” Hutchison said. “This funding will help expand our knowledge of nuclear physics and allow students to train at a state-of-the-art facility.”

UTPB President David Watts thanked Hutchison for her support of the project and for her vision for Texas.

“UT Permian Basin is thrilled about this announcement. Senator Hutchison continues to support Texas – and UTPB is proud to play its part in developing new technologies and educating young scientists,” Watts said. “Her vision of Texas as a world leader in energy and nuclear science is critical to our success.”

The reactor will operate at a higher temperature than conventional facilities and employ an innovative gas cooling system. Studies conducted in the high-temperature environment could lead to the development of new materials, advanced industrial processes and more efficient methods of energy production. The project, scheduled for completion in 2012, is a partnership between UTPB, the cities of Midland and Odessa, Andrews County and General Atomics.

Andrews City Manager Glen Hackler echoed Watts’ sentiments.

“This commitment to West Texas reflects the good support we have from our elected leadership in Washington. We’re very appreciative of Senator Hutchison and her staff and look forward to gaining future support from the federal government,” Hackler said.

The Fiscal Year 2007 Department of Defense Appropriations bill will now be sent to a legislative conference committee.

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