

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

July 6, 2010

Secretary Stephen Chu
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0002

Dear Secretary Chu:

We write today to request that the Department of Energy immediately halt all actions to dismantle operations at Yucca Mountain at least until legal action regarding the withdrawal of the application is resolved by the DC Circuit Court and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The DC Circuit Court has taken the important step of approving the motion to expedite legal actions and has combined the cases involving the State of Washington, State of South Carolina, Aiken County, and Tri-Cities, Washington community leaders. This is a clear demonstration by the Court that the merits of the case must be heard and ruled upon prior to further action by the Department of Energy to shut down Yucca Mountain.

On June 29, 2010, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board denied the Department's motion to withdraw its license application for Yucca Mountain, a clear statement that the Department does not have the authority under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to unilaterally terminate Yucca Mountain.

In light of the recent legal and regulatory actions, we are deeply troubled that the Department continues to move forward with terminating the project regardless of this decision. We are also concerned that the Department is using its budget proposal in an attempt to justify the termination of Yucca Mountain.

As you know, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act designated Yucca Mountain as the only candidate site for the national repository. Congressional intent is clear – Congress has voted several times to retain Yucca Mountain as the national repository. We are deeply disappointed that DOE has overstepped its bounds and has ignored congressional intent without peer review or proper scientific documentation in its actions regarding Yucca Mountain.

We ask that you recognize the letter and spirit of the law, honor the timeline set by the court, and halt all efforts to reprogram funds or terminate contracts related to Yucca Mountain.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Patty Murray

Joe Neuhardt

Laura Alexander

Jim Clark

Kay Bailey Hutchison

Mary Landrigh

Dynan Snow

Jeff Bond

Geoffrey S. Lewis

Sayby Chaubkin

Mark

Jim DeMint

John McLean

John Cornyn

Jim Bunning

Jim Cooper

John G. Sununu

Jeff Sessions

Mike Enzi

Jan E. Rinaldi

Phad Cochran

John Barrasso

Sam Brownback

John Sununu

Eric Cantor

4th Boston

Frank Lautenberg

Shirley Pendergast

D. Bernick

Pick Laxman

Joe Wilson

Ben Inglis

Mike Crayon

Susan Collins

Norm Dicks

James E. Jeffords

Chris Wyss

Tim Wirth

R. Helms

Cathy McMorris-Rodgers

W. J. Toomey

Alaska

Henry E. Brown

Bart Stupak

Gale Brown
Vicki Griffith

Don Dulis
Pete Olson

Lana Kim

John Kline
Susie Gray

Lynn Jenkins

Lick Kim

Brett Guthrie

Duff Starnes

Ging Brown-White

Mark

John Shedy

John Linder

Judy Briggs

Garb Ward

Pat

Blaine Johnson

Robt E. Anderson

Bob Andlette

John S.

Paul A. Kajorski

John J. Durand

E. Burns

F. Bonner

~~Paul~~

Jack Kingston

Ralph M. Hall

Joe Courtney

Denny Rellberg

J. B. ^{II-17}

~~M. O. P.~~

Sue Myrick

Ken Albert

Paul Mangels

Petersons

~~Joe~~

Doug Walden

E. C. Turr

Harold Rogan

Tom & Lois Buelo

Jim Semmer

Michael Bachmann

~~Jim~~

Julia Wong

E. Whitfield