

From: SAGAN <sagan@mciworld.com> on 02/08/2000 07:58 PM GMT

To: president@Whitehouse.GOV  
cc:  
Subject: Proposed Recycling of Radioactive Materials

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Dear Mr. President:

I am very concerned that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is on the verge of legalizing the release of radioactive materials for "recycling" into products for use by industry and the general public. It is my understanding that some states, such as Tennessee, are already permitting this to happen. The nuclear power industry is prodding both the N.R.C. and the states to allow them to sell off all kinds of radioactive metals and other contaminated materials so that these companies can make a profit out of unwise business practices they were foolish enough to embrace.

What the N.R.C. and the nuclear power industry are planning to do with these materials is unconscionable and should be stopped immediately. No one can know how much all sentient life on earth will be adversely affected by circulating radioactive materials as if they were as harmless as other common resources. We do know that exposure to ionizing radiation increases the risks of cancer, leukemia, genetic defects and other illness that can occur as a result of a weakening of the immune system. We would have no idea from how many different sources we would be exposed to radiation; and the difficulty of monitoring all these possible sources would be insurmountable.

I feel that it is imperative that you issue an Executive Order that will protect Americans from this threat by prohibiting the use of radioactive wastes and materials for any consumer products. Furthermore, the order should bar any radioactive wastes and materials from landfills, incinerators and anywhere else other than licensed radioactive facilities and should direct the E.P.A., the N.R.C. and the D.O.E. to recapture radioactive materials already released and work for an international prohibition on releasing radioactive materials.

Thank you for your early attention to this urgent problem.

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