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Charlie Norwood
10th District, Georgia

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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April 19, 2000

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50-346

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C., 20555

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in support of an application by Southern Nuclear Operating Company, a subsidiary of the Southern Company, for a twenty-year extension of the operating terms for Plant Hatch Units 1 and 2, near Baxley, Georgia.

Although it is not located in my district, Plant Hatch provides a vital source of power to the vast majority of electricity customers in the state of Georgia. It is jointly owned by Georgia Power Company, Oglethorpe Power Company, the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, and the City of Dalton, Georgia. Plant Hatch is a critical component of the state of Georgia's effort to maintain a reliable, balanced, and environmentally sound fuel mix. In an area that has been hit hard economically by drought, low farm prices, and textile flight overseas, Plant Hatch provides jobs for nearly 1,000 citizens in the state of Georgia and is an important component in the economic viability of the region.

As I am sure you are aware, Plant Hatch has routinely been recognized as one of the safest and most productive nuclear plants in the country. I can personally attest that the management has gone to great lengths to work with the surrounding community and keep the citizens informed of plant status and activities. I am confident that the fine men and women who are employed at the plant can be trusted to continue operating the plant safely and efficiently.

I ask that you keep these thoughts in mind as you begin the review process for this application. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charlie Norwood
Member of Congress

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