

October 17, 2001

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman, Chairman
Committee on Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Senators Bennett and Kyl recently introduced S. 1456, the "Critical Infrastructure Information Security Act of 2001," a bill that has been referred to your Committee. As its title suggests, this bill aims at fostering improved security of critical infrastructure information. Section 5 of the bill specifies the thirteen Federal agencies that would be the beneficiaries of this important legislation. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is not specifically named as one of these beneficiaries. Consequently, the NRC is requesting that section 5 (a)(2) be expanded to include the Commission.

The NRC's statutory responsibilities and expertise give the Commission an important role in combating terrorism. The Commission has made extensive efforts to assure that we and our licensees can and will respond effectively to terrorist action. The provisions in this legislation would help the Commission carry out its statutory responsibilities by giving us additional authority to protect critical infrastructure information that is submitted to the NRC by the regulated community or others.

We appreciate your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

cc: Senator Fred Thompson
Senator Robert F. Bennett
Senator Jon Kyl