

December 20, 2006

The Honorable Bob Casey
United States Senator-elect
Care of the United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator-elect Casey:

I am writing to extend my congratulations on your election to the United States Senate. It will be an honor to work with you on the important issues facing this country in the coming years. As you may know, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is an independent agency established by the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 to regulate civilian nuclear power and use of nuclear materials.

Specific to the NRC and our mission, we face several key challenges. It is likely that the United States will engage in a significant expansion of the nuclear power industry in the near future. Therefore, NRC's challenges will include the efficient management of applications for new commercial nuclear plants while continuing to ensure the safe operation of existing plants. We must also look ahead and prepare for the development of new reactor designs and fuel cycle concepts. Additionally, NRC must maintain its regulation of medical isotopes to safeguard the benefits of nuclear medicine. Most importantly, we must develop the human resources that will be needed to ensure continued public safety and environmental quality.

The NRC has established a framework of regulatory stability to both keep current nuclear plants safe and secure as well as meet these emerging challenges. However, we continually assess and strive to improve our efforts as needed.

I would welcome the opportunity to brief you or your staff about the NRC. If this would be helpful, please contact Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, at 301-415-1776 or rls8@nrc.gov.

Again, congratulations and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dale E. Klein

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Bob Casey
United States Senator-elect
Care of the United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bob Corker
United States Senator-elect
Care of the United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jim Webb
United States Senator-elect
Care of the United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator-elect
Care of the United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Claire McCaskill
United States Senator-elect
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Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator-elect
Care of the United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510