July 3, 2007

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Alexander:

As you may know, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has captured the top ranking among large Federal agencies in the "2007 Best Places to Work in the Federal Government" rankings announced Thursday, April 19, 2007, by the Partnership for Public Service and the American University Institute for the Study of Public Policy Implementation. The NRC was also recently recognized as a "Best Diversity Company" by the readers of *Diversity/Careers in Engineering and Information Technology*. Reader survey results highlighted the NRC for the agency's strong support of women and minorities, attention to work/life balance, and commitment to supplier diversity.

This recognition is a great honor for all of the men and women at the NRC. Agency employees, including those located at NRC-regulated facilities across the country, are clearly committed to the mission of licensing and regulating the Nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, promoting the common defense and security, and protecting the environment. As evidenced by these awards, the NRC staff has the dedication and commitment that make the NRC a great place to work.

As the Commission looks to the future, we plan to recruit 400 new employees each year for the next few years to ensure that the agency has the workforce needed to support adequately the expected arrival of nearly two dozen applications for new reactor licenses beginning this fall. This ranking will surely help us as we work to recruit top-tier employees with the skills necessary to carry out NRC's mission. NRC Senior Managers are committed to ensuring that the NRC remains responsive to employee needs and that our workforce remains innovative and effective.

While the Commission is very proud that the NRC was named both 2007's "Best Place to Work" and a "Best Diversity Company," we know that we could not have achieved this acclaim without the continued cooperation of Congress. Very simply, I would like to say thank you. Thank you especially for your commitment to funding our increased hiring efforts. I know that Congress supports us as we continue to enable the Nation to safely use radioactive materials for beneficial civilian purposes while ensuring that people and the environment are protected, and I know that this support is a large part of what makes the NRC a great place to work.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dale E. Klein

Identical letter sent to:

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