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November 27, 2007

IWO 23  
XWO13

The Honorable Dale Klein  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
11555 Rockville Pike  
One White Flint North  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Chairman Klein,

I want to express strong concern about the September 14, 2007 application submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission by EnergySolutions, Inc. for a license to import as much as 20,000 tons of radioactively contaminated material into the United States.

I am concerned with the large quantity of contaminated material that would be brought into the United States as well as the lack of information in the application about the specific sources of the material in question. It is my understanding that the Commission has never approved a license application for the importation and disposal of such a large quantity of radioactive waste. Our country already faces capacity issues and other challenges in treating and disposing of radioactive waste produced domestically, and I believe we should be working on solving this problem at home before taking dangerous waste from around the world. In addition, the company's application itself notes that "[t]he sources of this material are not fully known". The Commission should not agree to allow materials to be imported when the nature of the hazardous and potentially dangerous materials remain unclear.

I am also concerned about the environmental and public health consequences of processing and potentially disposing of the waste in Tennessee. I understand that actually only a small portion of the waste imported will be transported to EnergySolutions' facility in Utah. Some undetermined amount may be incinerated at a facility in Oak Ridge, TN (with unknown impacts on local communities) while additional waste could end

11/30... To OIP/EDO to Prepare Response for Chairman's Signature... Due date: 12/14  
Copy to: RF...07-0796...Commission Correspondence...OCA to Ack  
Internet: <http://www.house.gov/bart>

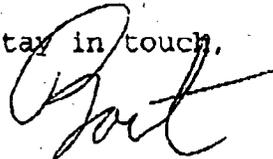
*Original submitted 2-28-08 to...*

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up permanently in class A landfills throughout the state. Additionally, the application notes that waste will be transported "by truck, barge, or rail to EnergySolutions' Tennessee facilities", unnecessarily taking hazardous materials long distances through communities throughout my state and others. The EnergySolutions application further suggests that some of the imported waste may be above allowable contamination levels for processing and disposal in Tennessee and Utah and would be returned to Italy. What processes are in place for accurately identifying and safely handling this waste and what guarantees do we have that Italian authorities will allow this waste to be returned?

Unless these concerns can be adequately addressed, I strongly urge the Commission to reject the application submitted by Energy Solutions. I look forward to hearing your response.

Stay in touch,



BART GORDON  
Member of Congress

BJG/ea