

April 30, 2008

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

I am responding to your letter of April 2, 2008, supporting the University of Rhode Island's proposal for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Education Grant Program entitled, *Nuclear Engineering Education Program for Rhode Island (NEEPR)*. The Education Grant Program was created and is being implemented to ensure that an adequate educational infrastructure exists to train the next generation of nuclear safety professionals.

The agency has established a comprehensive evaluation review process, involving a panel of peer reviewers, who are responsible for evaluating all proposals received. I want to assure you that the panel will assess the University of Rhode Island's proposal carefully and provide a recommendation. When the evaluation is made, the NRC will notify the University and you of the agency's decision. Again, I would like to thank you for your personal interest in and support of this important program.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dale E. Klein