

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 27, 2013

The Honorable Alison M. Macfarlane
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16G4
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Macfarlane:

As you are aware, on August 13, 2013 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit granted a Writ of Mandamus requiring the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to continue its work on the licensing process for the Yucca Mountain facility in Nevada. In your response to a question for the record from a hearing on July 24, 2012 and testimony at a September 10, 2013 hearing, you indicated your willingness to follow NRC procedures in making a final determination on the Yucca Mountain licensing issue. Now that a Writ of Mandamus has been granted, we ask that you follow through on that commitment and focus the limited available NRC resources on completion of the safety evaluation reports (SER).

In the years since Yucca Mountain was chosen as the location as the permanent repository for high-level nuclear waste, there has been much debate about the adequacy of Yucca to fill that role. When the license review process was shutdown in a misguided decision by your predecessor, NRC staff worked to complete one volume of the SER and completed technical evaluation reports without recommendations for three of the other four volumes. It is our firm belief that completion of the SER will settle the debate and provide scientific data confirming what we have known for many years – that Yucca Mountain is a safe location for a permanent repository.

As we noted above, we understand that the NRC does not have the funding to complete the entire licensing process for Yucca Mountain. Given that limitation, we urge the NRC to do the most with the little it has remaining. In previous testimony given by the NRC, it is NRC's estimate that it may take six to eight months and approximately \$6.5 million to complete the SER. Because the licensing process has been dormant a number of years, it is understandable that it may take additional resources to restart the SER process. As the House of Representatives continues to work in a bipartisan effort to secure additional funding for the NRC, we hope that the NRC will act as good stewards of the funds already appropriated and accomplish as much as possible and start by completing the SER.

We know you share the same hope we do of completing a permanent repository for our nation's nuclear waste. Such a goal is in the best interests of ratepayers, taxpayers, and our national security. We hope you will focus your remaining resources on completing the critical step of the safety evaluation report and help move us one step closer to our shared goal.

Sincerely,

John D. Dingell
Member of Congress

Doc Hastings
Member of Congress

John Barrow
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Mike Simpson
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Joe Barton
Member of Congress

Lee Terry
Member of Congress

Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress

Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress

Tom Rice
Member of Congress

Michael F. Doyle
Member of Congress

Trey Radel
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress



C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress



Alan Nunnelee
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress



Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



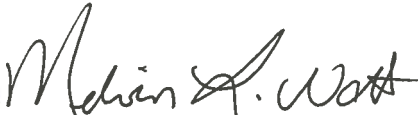
Richard L. Hanna
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



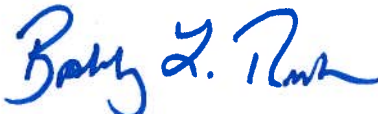
Melvin L. Watt
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress




Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Daniel B. Maffei
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



David G. Reichert
Member of Congress



Mick Mulvaney
Member of Congress



Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress

Lynn A. Westmoreland
Member of Congress

Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

Steve Womack
Member of Congress

Gregg Harper
Member of Congress

Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress

Aaron Schock
Member of Congress

Joe Garcia
Member of Congress

Chris Collins
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

Jason Smith
Member of Congress

Patrick T. McHenry
Member of Congress

Ralph M. Hall
Member of Congress

Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress

Bill Owens
Member of Congress

Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress

Billy Long
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

Blain Leutkemeyer
Member of Congress

John J. Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress


Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress

Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress


Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

Scott Perry
Member of Congress


Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



James P. Moran
Member of Congress


Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress


G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress


William L. Enyart
Member of Congress

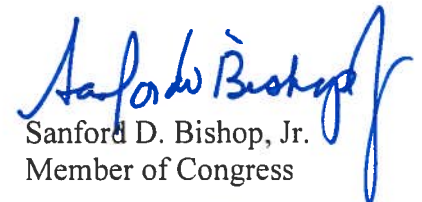

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress


Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress


Steve Stivers
Member of Congress


Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress


Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress


Paul C. Broun
Member of Congress


Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress

CC: Kristine L. Svinicki, Commissioner, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
George Apostolakis, Commissioner, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
William D. Magwood, IV, Commissioner, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
William C. Ostendorff, Commissioner, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission