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DOCKET NUMBER

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

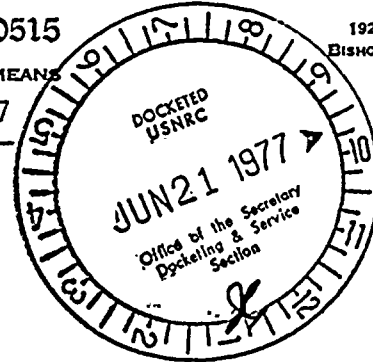
June 14, 1977

KERN, INYO, TULARE AND
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Mr. Marcus A. Rowden, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

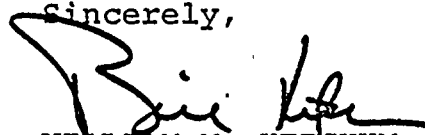
Dear Chairman Rowden:

I have been advised that the Chairwoman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has granted a delay until October 18 of the hearing on the general license for the Diablo Canyon Power Plant. The reason for the delay is apparently because many of those opposed to the license are either college professors or students and a hearing during their normal vacation time would be inconvenient.

This is the most asinine situation I can imagine in view of the severe energy shortages facing the State of California. There are going to be thousands and thousands of individuals extremely inconvenienced because of brown outs as well as critical shortages in agriculture. I think that the College professors and students would do well to sacrifice part of their vacation time to participate and express their views.

I implore you to cancel the delay and begin immediately the hearings on this power plant. I look forward to your immediate and favorable reply.

Sincerely,


WILLIAM M. KETCHUM
Member of Congress

WMK:mg

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May 27, 1977

direct resp.
NRC - direct
15 JUN 1977



The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

As I am sure you are well aware from your recent tour of farming areas in the San Joaquin Valley, a portion of which I represent, a disaster of unprecedented magnitude is facing agriculture and the total economy of this region this summer. Due to a lack of rainfall, there will be insufficient water for agriculture. There will also be insufficient electrical power for the increased pumping that will be required due to this lack of rain.

There presently sits at Diablo Canyon a short distance from the San Joaquin Valley, a completed nuclear power plant. This plant could provide a considerable amount of electrical energy this summer to alleviate the drought. However, it will not be used. Its energy -- which could potentially save millions of dollars and the fortunes of thousands of valley farmers and businessmen, to say nothing of the jobs that could be provided to those who need work and income -- will not be realized. Why? The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, charged with the task of determining the safety of this important facility, has decided to postpone further hearings on the operating license of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant until October 18, 1977. The hearings could be held sooner than that; but the interveners, many of whom are from academia, don't want their summer vacations interrupted.

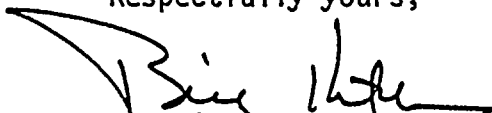
Mr. President, this is the kind of elitism that is destroying this country. The jobs and the fortunes of a lot of average American citizens who happen to live in the San Joaquin Valley are going to go down the tube because a bunch of intellectual elitists don't want their three-month vacation interrupted.

The President
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Now it is entirely possible that if the hearings were held sooner the plant would not be licensed. I realize that these same elitists who don't have to worry about where their next dollar is coming from (they know it is coming from the taxpayers) couldn't care less about the "rednecks" they look down upon. I don't have that luxury, Mr. President. I represent these people. I farmed and got my hands dirty and went broke a couple of times and I know where they are coming from. We need Diablo Canyon, we need that power, and we need it now.

I don't know if there is anything you can do to speed up the process. But if that power is not made available, I will certainly do everything I can to let the people know who helped and who didn't help when the crunch came.

Respectfully yours,



WILLIAM M. KETCHUM
Member of Congress

WMK/st



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