

BRIAN HIGGINS
26TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3226

May 5, 2017

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The Honorable Kristine Svinicki
Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

RE: NRC-2017-0054

Dear Chairman Svinicki:

I write you today to provide comment on a proposal by UniTech Service Group Inc. for a specific export license to export up to 10,000 metric tonnes of low-level radioactive waste from nuclear power to Canada. On behalf of my constituents, out of concern for their health and safety, I would like to register my opposition to this request and urge you to reject it.

As you know, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has proposed to transport highly radioactive material from the Chalk River Laboratories in Ontario, Canada to DOE's Savannah River Site (SRS) in Aiken, South Carolina. I opposed that proposal because the primary route of transport of this radioactive material – highly enriched uranium target residue – will be via a route that will cross the Great Lakes region, including land ports of entry and routes in my district in New York State. Now it appears my district may become a routine thoroughfare for unnecessary radioactive shipments between the United States and Canada.

There are potentially significant transportation risks in moving radioactive waste and material on infrastructure shared by everyday citizens. This is particularly attenuated in this circumstance where the shipment will be unescorted and without proper advance notice to the communities, including those I represent, where the shipments will move through. Radioactive transport carries an unnecessary risk and is setting precedent for more radioactive waste and material moving to and from Canada as nuclear sites are decommissioned.

Out of concern for the safety of my constituents, I urge you to reject this license so that the transport of this radioactive material cannot commence.

Sincerely,



BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress