

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

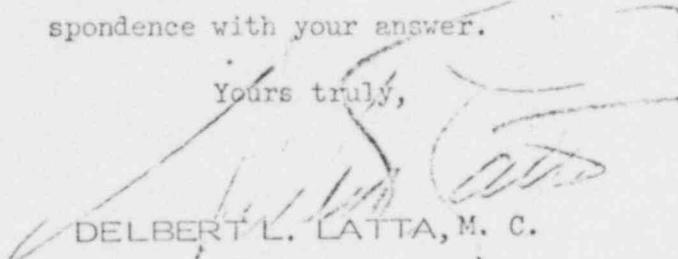
October 7 1960

Mr. Robert D. O'Neill, Director
Congressional Relations
Atomic Energy Commission

Sir:

The attached communication
is sent for your consideration.
Please investigate the statements
contained therein and forward me
the necessary information for re-
ply, returning the enclosed corre-
spondence with your answer.

Yours truly,


DELBERT L. LATTA, M. C.

DLL:kmb

Enclosure:

Ltr. from Mrs. Bruce Card
Toledo, Ohio.

8008050

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September 21, 1953
3039 E. ...
Toledo, Ohio 43606

**POOR
ORIGINAL**

Mr. Delbert Latta
Fifth Congressional District
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Latta:

I am writing you in regard to the nuclear plant which is to be built in Ottawa County in the very near future. I have never written a Congressman or any other public official in my life, but I am extremely concerned over this project. I have lived most of my life in Ottawa County. As a result, I am more concerned than ever.

My knowledge is very limited in this area, as I am sure are most other citizens of the area. In fact, many of the people in the Toledo area are not aware of the project or only have vague ideas. But from what I understand, this plant will only supply a small portion of power to the Northwestern Ohio area. The largest percentage will be used by a seven state area. Even with expected population growth, the Northwestern Ohio area would not be in danger of power failures for some three years and even then it would not be likely. At present we have a 30% power reserve. This statement was made on a Toledo news program earlier this summer by a Toledo Edison news spokesman.

I suppose my efforts are futile, but the fact remains that no perfectly safe design has been found for nuclear plants. Each one is different and has its own set of elaborate safety precautions. It is therefore apparent that we are trying to control and utilize an extremely dangerous source of energy. It is ridiculous to try to convince the public that atomic power plants are an asset to our environment and will have no detrimental effect on Lake Erie, the soil, and most importantly US.

If this were a fact, then all power plants would be constructed in the same manner and the plant itself would be insurable.

There are those who are concerned with the transportation of wastes from the plant. Citizens are living as close as 300 feet from the railroad which will be transporting the wastes. The Penn-Central refuses to carry it because of the danger involved. Edison must go all the way to Limestone, Ohio to make a connection with the Norfolk and Western. To my knowledge these wastes are being buried in the western states. It takes hundreds of years to cool these wastes and already those which have been buried only 50 years are eating through the lead vats. This may cause contamination of soil and water in the future.

I am intelligent enough to realize that our power demands in the future will be greater and as our natural resources dwindle, nuclear power may be our only alternative. The point I am trying to make is that we are using and researching a product at the same time. The transportation and storage problems of the waste materials are enough to delay construction of this plant. Is it too much to ask that not only these problems be solved, but those of a truly SAFE design for nuclear plants, before this is thrust upon us. With a few more years of research we could possibly have a guarantee of nuclear power without these dangerous side effects. I realize the fact that we must make some sacrifice for progress and that all things which are beneficial generally have some drawbacks. But in this case, the risk at present is too great and the price may be too high. Until some of these problems are solved, I will definitely be against this project.

Many of the elected officials of Ottawa County will continue to encourage this project since the tax benefits will be some 3 million dollars of which the school system will receive a large share. This will

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I would rather have my child a little less well-educated and live a healthier safer life. You and I may never have to face this, but the next generation may be the ones to suffer. I would like to know how many of these supporters would like to live within one mile of the Davis-Besse Plant as some people will in the near future.

I am a registered nurse and I have seen the effects of "researched proven" drugs (or so they were called) which backfired and were damaging to the patient. I have also seen proven methods of surgery which resulted only in failure and put the patient in a worse state than he was previously. There are many chemicals and other products on the market which were once considered safe and have ended in suffering. We are being asked to become victims again and this project cannot even give us any guarantee of safety from radiation effects, pollution of the lake, and the possibility of the destruction of neighboring farm land.

I do not know your feelings on this subject Mr. Latta, but I hope I have not written this letter in vain and merely wasted your time. I have never been a radical and never will be, but it does tend to make one lose faith in one's government when the citizen and taxpayer is constantly being asked (or should I say told) to accept so many things which may be harmful to him and his family. I only wish I were more able to express myself more effectively, for this project is very frightening to me. If nothing else, we should be better informed on this subject. I had to dig to find the information I have. It is very hard to find honest and sincere people with truthful answers. As I said, I have seen the suffering and witnessed the errors of many of our "proven" man made products. It has made me leary of hasty changes and distrustful of those who are so eager to promote them. I hope you will think about this, Mr. Latta. Thank you.

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