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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SENATE

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

DAVID ROBERTI
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

NANCY BURT
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

October 18, 1989

Mr. Kenneth M. Carr
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Carr:

In the aftermath of yesterday's devastating earthquake, I am concerned about the potential safety implications at the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant.

While the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant was not at the epicenter of the earthquake, I'm concerned that it may have suffered undetected damage which could pose future dangers for Californians. The fact that it is operating is no reassurance of safety, since nuclear accidents occur while plants are in operation.

I base my concerns on other events that occurred on Tuesday, October 17, 1989. Despite the best design and construction efforts of the California Department of Transportation, the highway system suffered significant damage. This damage was from a quake that, while severe, was still much less powerful than what has historically been recorded in California. By way of comparison, the 1906 San Francisco quake registered 8.0 on the Richter Scale -- probably ten times more powerful than Tuesday's quake.

The initial judgment of the Department of Transportation was that the shock waves from the quake struck in a way that was unprecedented and totally unforeseen. The damage done is causing experts to re-examine just how structures react to earthquakes and whether or not present methods of enhancing seismic safety provide adequate protection.

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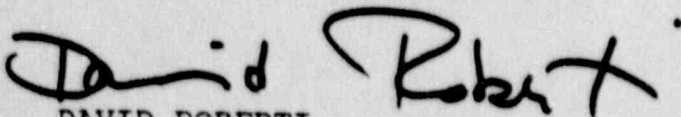
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I am requesting that you immediately send a team of engineers and geologists to the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant to reassess its structural integrity and to review emergency safety procedures there. This is a task which only the NRC can conduct since the commission has had a strong hand in the design and redesign of Diablo Canyon. Yours is the agency which has certified its safety.

I urge you to respond as quickly as possible to this request. Californians living near the Diablo Canyon plant need to know that it would withstand the kind of stress and strain exemplified by the recent disaster nearby.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Roberti". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DAVID ROBERTI

DR:mano

cc: Honorable Alan Cranston
Honorable Pete Wilson

Senate President Pro Tempore

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DAVID ROBERTI

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No. 264
EPC

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ROBERTI ASKS NRC INSPECTION OF DIABLO CANYON
NUCLEAR PLANT BECAUSE OF EARTHQUAKE

SACRAMENTO--Senate President Pro Tempore David Roberti (D-Hollywood/Surbank) Wednesday (October 19) requests the chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to "immediately send a team of engineers and geologists to the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant to reassess its structural integrity and to review emergency safety procedures there".

In a letter to NRC Chairman Kenneth M. Carr, Roberti said the inspection "is a task which only the NRC can conduct since the commission has had a strong hand in the design and redesign of Diablo Canyon. Yours is the agency which has certified its safety."

Roberti noted that although the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant is not at the epicenter of Tuesday's earthquake, he is "concerned that it may have suffered undetected damage which could pose future danger for Californians."

A copy of the Roberti letter is attached.

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