

CARL LEVIN  
MICHIGAN

COMMITTEES  
ARMED SERVICES  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
SMALL BUSINESS

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 16, 1989

Mr. John C. Bradburne  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

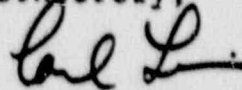
Dear Mr. Bradburne:

Enclosed is correspondence from Wesley and Jennifer Bullock of Monroe, Michigan. I would appreciate your looking into this matter for me. Please address your reply, along with the original correspondence, to Diana Dearmin of my staff.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Carl Levin

CL/ddj  
Enclosure

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Mr. Carl M. Levin  
450 Senate Russell Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sir:

We are citizens of Monroe County, Michigan. Our county is in the midst of public hearings concerning a proposed solid waste plan for the next 5 and 20 years. We were appalled to find out at one such public hearing that our solid waste planning commission did not know anything about the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's plan to deregulate about one-third of low-level radioactive waste and, with the stroke of a pen, declare materials that were considered hazardous yesterday to now be "Below Regulatory Concern" or "BRC." Since these materials would be re-defined as "ordinary garbage," they could go into ordinary type II landfills or ordinary mass burn incinerators. Monroe county is proposing both increased landfilling and incineration as ways of dealing with our solid waste problem. Our Solid Waste Planning Commission reported that they had no idea that this deregulation was nearly in progress and could begin as soon as next February!

We are no longer going to assume that government officials are willing and/or able to keep up with the ever increasing amount of information regarding potential threats to the health and safety of their constituents. We recently sent a letter to the NRC and are including a copy of this letter here for your information.

We are writing to register our **concern** and **disapproval** of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's plan to deregulate more than 30% of what is now considered "low level" radioactive waste. Exemption of radioactive materials from regulatory concern by simply reclassifying it as "below regulatory concern" (i.e., as "regular garbage") is clearly a "semantic shellgame" designed to pass the problems of health risks and financial burdens caused by dealing with radioactively contaminated materials on to the state and local level.

Further, there is growing evidence that exposure to low levels of ionizing radiation have much greater negative health effects than previously assumed, and yet the NRC plan is for deregulated waste to be put in regular landfills, sewers and incinerators - which are neither designed nor intended to take radioactive waste. Worse yet, deregulated radioactive materials could be recycled, so that

they ultimately contaminate raw materials and consumer products from frying pans to baby high chairs. Clearly, this plan is **not** in the best interest of the health and safety of the American people, and we do not want the "BRC" plan enacted

We are joining with many others in calling upon Congress to **rescind** Section 10 of the 1985 Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act (P.L. 99-240). Further, we are working with others at the municipal and state level to implement resolutions to prohibit the deregulation of "low level" radioactive waste within our city, county, or state

As members of your constituency, we are writing to ask that you represent our above-stated views and do all in your power to stop the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's semantic shell game of attempting to rename away low level radioactive waste.

Sincerely,

*Jennifer Simkins-Bullock*  
Jennifer Simkins-Bullock, M.A.

*Wesley A. Bullock*  
Wesley A. Bullock, Ph.D.