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December 16, 1976

Mr. Marcus A. Rowden, Chairman
 Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Rowden:

I would like to express my growing concern over the plans of the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) to construct a nuclear generating plant on the shores of Lake Michigan immediately adjacent to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

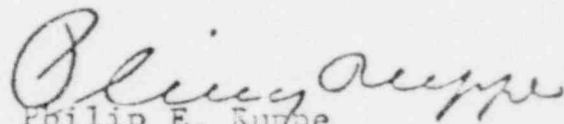
I serve on the Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Over the past three years we have debated, and finally enacted late this year, major legislation to modify the boundaries of the Lakeshore. One of the most controversial issues, and one in which I became deeply involved, was that of the adequate protection of Cowles Bog, a registered national natural landmark within the Lakeshore and immediately adjacent to the proposed Bailly nuclear site.

During the deliberations on this legislation, members of the Committee agreed that it would be inappropriate for the legislation to take a stand for or against the controversial proposed nuclear plant outside the boundaries of the Lakeshore. There was serious concern, however, over possible existing adverse impacts to the Bog, emanating from present activities of adjacent landowners, particularly NIPSCO. The legislation enacted, Public Law 94-549, requires the Secretary of the Interior to further evaluate this situation and report his findings back to the Congress so that more conclusive legislative consideration might be made by the Congress to assure adequate protection of the Bog resource.

From reports I hear, I am quite concerned as to possible further adverse impacts to the Bog, particularly to its water, which might result from construction of the proposed nuclear plant in this location on the very edge of the Bog. Moreover, there are other considerations of adverse impact to the Lakeshore which come into play relative to the proposed location of this facility.

I am sure you are well aware of these issues, but I would hope that no irreversible actions will be taken related to possible construction of a nuclear facility at this location until the Congress has the benefit of the study being conducted relative to Cowles Bog and the Lakeshore as dictated in Public Law 94-549.

Sincerely,


Philip E. Ruppe
Member of Congress

cc: Hon. Thomas Kleppe
Secretary of the Interior