

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 1996

The Honorable Shirley Jackson
Chairman
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Jackson:

We are writing to express our support for the recent report of the National Academy of Sciences -- Institute of Medicine (NAS-IOM) entitled "Radiation in Medicine, a Need for Regulatory Reform." One particular chapter of the report (Chapter 4) deals with the risks of ionizing radiation in medicine. The use of appropriate risk assessment in regulation has been a long-standing concern of many members of the 104th Congress. We are pleased to see this issue addressed, specifically regarding nuclear medicine regulations of the NRC.

The NAS-IOM report indicates that for nuclear medicine, the risk and probability of harm occurring to a patient or a member of the public is extraordinarily low. The material gathered by the NAS-IOM appears to indicate that a significant reduction in the program conducted by the NRC and the resumption of state control would not affect public health and safety. In addition, it indicates that there are no additional safety concerns for reactor-produced material above and beyond the accelerator-produced material that the States currently regulate.

We are interested to hear the perspective of the NRC about how much regulation, if any at all, is necessary to achieve an adequate level of safety above and beyond the quality control measures that already exist in medicine. Furthermore, does the NRC believe that additional concerns relating to the use of byproduct material in nuclear medicine do indeed exist?

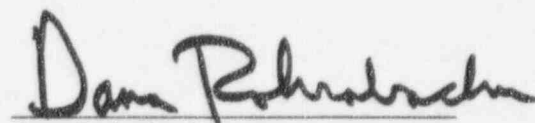
As the NRC is soliciting public comments through April 22, 1996, we urge the NRC to give every consideration to the NAS-IOM report, particularly the review of risk assessment. If the NRC disagrees with the NAS-IOM report in this area, we look forward to receiving your detailed response, including concrete examples of recurring incidents which indicate that public health and safety would be jeopardized by the elimination of NRC jurisdiction and the assumption of regulation by the States.

Thank you for your consideration.


Sincerely,



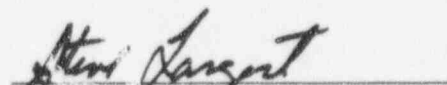
Koscoe G. Barnett



Dana Rohrabacher



Bill Baker



Steve Largent

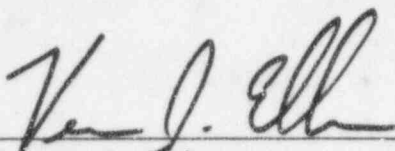
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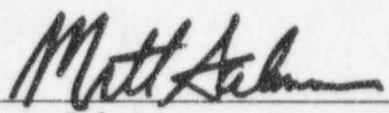
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Vernon J. Ehlers



Matt Salmon

