

- DCD (SPDC)

PHL

FCC

SCD

TJO

M. Malley/TN

TN file

AMERICAN ECOLOGY CORPORATION

805 W. Idaho Street Ste 200

PO Box 1779

Boise, Idaho 83702

(208) 331-8400

DELIVER ASAP

Date: 10/6/99

To: Paul Lohaus, Office of State Programs

Fax: (301) 415-3502

From: Steve Romano
Vice President, Government Affairs

Pages (including cover): 2

Opposition to Markey Amendment

Attached is a letter from our Chairman to Congressman Wamp expressing our opposition to any version of this amendment given the lack of external input. Please share it as appropriate with your colleagues and any involved Commissioner offices.

That said, we have reviewed a revised amendment apparently being worked on by House Commerce Committee staffer Kevin Cook and regard the language requiring NRC to review "each proposal" for reuse and recycling to be extremely imprecise. "Each proposal" could easily be interpreted to connote each proposed generator or even each proposed generator waste stream. If language is to move forward, we suggest that "proposal" be carefully defined to include new waste processing facility licenses only.

F:\SHARED\FAX.DOC

PDR STPRG

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

SP-AG-26

American Ecology Corporation
805 W. Idaho, Suite 200
Boise, ID 83702-8916

208/331-8400
Fax: 208/331-7900
jlemley@americanecology.com

American Ecology

JACK K. LEMLEY
Chairman and
Chief Executive Officer

October 4, 1999

Honorable Zach Wamp
United States Congress
423 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Via Facsimile: (202) 225-3494

Dear Congressman Wamp:

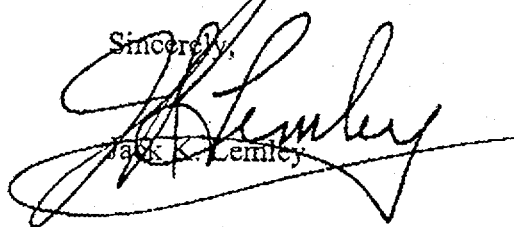
We are deeply concerned that an evolving amendment to H.R. 2531, the FY 2000 Nuclear Regulatory Commission Authorization Act, could seriously threaten the economic viability of our Oak Ridge operation and the jobs of 76 workers we employ there. We urge you to oppose this amendment, which has not received sufficient analysis by all of those who would be affected by its far-reaching provisions.

American Ecology workers perform metal decontamination followed by recycling or disposal in accordance with State of Tennessee requirements. During the first half of 1999, a quarter of the materials we received for processing were contaminated metals. We also decontaminate and refurbish large motors and other expensive components for the nation's electric utilities. Additional work is performed to decontaminate and rent metal scaffolding and shielding material used by utilities to lessen worker exposure to radiation. These worthwhile services could all be threatened by this amendment.

As you may know, at least six other private employers in the Oak Ridge area process radioactively contaminated metals for recycling or disposal.

We respectfully submit that this subject would be better addressed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission through formal rulemaking. Should legislation be pursued, that process should be accompanied by open hearings and other opportunities for informed scientific input from all affected parties rather than hurried, closed door negotiations.

Sincerely,



Jack K. Lemley