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1128 Old Marlboro Rd.
Concord, MA 01742

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December 4, 1999

Secretary of the Commission
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Secretary:

A nuclear power plant accident can hurt thousands of people and cause long-lasting harm to the environment. The workers at these plants are the first line of defense against such a disaster. The workers test and inspect safety equipment and follow emergency procedures when equipment malfunctions to lessen the consequences of an accident. I understand that the NRC will be considering two proposed rules intended to make sure that nuclear workers are an effective line of defense.

* Proposed Rule #1 - Establish limits on employee working hours at nuclear power plants.

* Proposed Rule #2 - Training on employee protection regulations to supervisors, managers, and directors.

I urge you to support both proposed rules to ensure that the first line of defense is staffed by workers who are free from both fatigue and fear of illegal discrimination. These two rules are essential to:

- prevent fatigue from impairing nuclear plant worker performance
- prevent fatigued workers from repairing, inspecting, and testing safety equipment when nuclear power plants are operating or shut down
- prevent fear from causing nuclear plant workers to remain silent about safety problems
- prevent supervisors, managers, and directors from using "ignorance of the law" as a shield for their illegal actions
- protect the public and the environment from a

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nuclear power plant accident

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louis Putterman". The signature is written in dark ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Louis Putterman
Member, Union of Concerned Scientists
Professor of Economics, Brown
University