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DAWN MALLOW
3231 Allen Parkway # 3101
Houston, TX 77019

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December 10, 1999

Secretary
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555
Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff

Dear Secretary of U. S. NRC:

I am writing regarding the plan of Vice-President Gore, the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to dispose of more than 1.4 million tons of radioactive nickel, copper, aluminum, steel, and concrete by recycling it into consumer products.

If this plan were to go forward, there would be no way for the American citizen to ascertain what would be safe or not safe--highways, cars, silverware, clothing, food containers, jewelry, etc. The word "recycling" is a good concept, but it was never meant to apply to active nuclear/radioactive waste. Nuclear/radioactive waste should not be "recycled" into consumer products that we all buy and are exposed to, but should be stored responsibly and safely in a secure designated nuclear waste facility.

I urge you to immediately halt the above-mentioned Gore-supported DOE contract and to provide information to non-profit agencies and the general public about companies and scrap metal dealers that have received or will receive radioactively contaminated metals. Any material that Gore has decided to release before the standards on a case-by-case basis containing these contaminated radioactive materials must have a clear, concise bilingual warning label with a radioactive symbol stating what exactly is in the product, how much, that these products are contaminated with radioactive waste, and that they are not safe.

It is mindboggling that not only has our world been polluted with radiation, pesticides, and air pollution, but now our own government is planning to sell hazardous contaminated material back to the American public! No unnecessary dose of radiation is acceptable. Exposures to radiation should be avoided as much as possible, not increased through an industry-backed rulemaking. Maybe your mission currently is to dispose of nuclear waste and to save as much money as possible, but there will come a day when your agency and all others will be held accountable for its actions and will have to safeguard the health of U. S. citizens and people around the world as its mission. I urge you to think about this now.

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Thank you for your consideration of this issue, and I hope you will read, listen to, and consider my comments and those of other concerned citizens carefully.

Sincerely,

Dawn Mallow

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