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1708 Sanford Road
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September 26, 2001

The Honorable Spencer Abraham
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy,
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Subject: Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation

Dear Secretary Abraham:

As a resident of Maryland and beneficiary of electricity generated from nuclear energy, I believe that moving forward with developing a permanent repository for used nuclear fuel is a very positive step. It is especially significant because in Maryland we receive 27.7 percent of our electricity from nuclear energy. The environmental benefits to our state are significant. In 2000, nuclear-generated electricity avoided 3.19 million metric tons of carbon and displaced approximately 75,000 tons of sulfur dioxide and 44,000 tons of nitrogen oxide.

Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant, which provides our state with low cost, reliable electricity, has run out of pool storage for used nuclear fuel and has to build a dry storage facility at considerable expense. Additionally, ratepayers in Maryland have contributed over \$360 million to the Nuclear Waste Fund.

The Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation Report culminates more than 20 years of in-depth scientific investigation from hydrology to geology to seismology and more. No evidence has been found to disqualify Yucca Mountain as a site for a permanent repository. Development of a repository is the safest and most economical way to dispose of used fuel rods from commercial nuclear power plants and radioactive waste from the nation's defense activities.

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The responsibility for managing used fuel and high-level radioactive waste should not be shifted to future generations, but should be taken care of by those who benefited from its use. It is imperative that the Department of Energy moves forward in recommending Yucca Mountain to the President for our nation's deep geologic repository. A decision must be made this year. The scientific facts support moving ahead and further debate is not warranted.

Sincerely,



Julie J. Offner

Cc: President George W. Bush