

HERB KOHL  
WISCONSIN

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
330 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5653  
T.T.Y. (202) 224-4464  
<http://kohl.senate.gov/>

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4903

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
JUDICIARY  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON AGING

April 15, 2007

Representative Phil Montgomery  
Wisconsin Legislative Council  
P.O. Box 2536  
Madison, Wisconsin 53701

Dear Representative Montgomery:

Thank you for taking the time to contact me. I apologize for the delay in my response. I value the correspondence I get from people back home in Wisconsin, and I would like to take this opportunity to address your concerns regarding the storage of nuclear waste.

In 1982, Congress passed the "Nuclear Waste Policy Act", which called for the creation of a single, secure facility for the storage of the nation's nuclear waste. After many years of land surveys, research and debate, the Department of Energy (DOE) settled on Yucca Mountain, Nevada, as the best permanent site. Congress gave final approval to this plan in 2002. DOE is still evaluating scientific issues at Yucca Mountain, and does not expect to open the facility until 2017 at the earliest.

Disposal of highly radioactive waste is one of the most controversial issues facing the nuclear power industry. Over a decade ago, the Federal government promised the residents of Wisconsin that it would remove nuclear waste from the state and send it to a long-term storage site. Since that time, Wisconsin citizens have spent over \$377 million to help pay for the construction of this site. I voted in support of the long-term site at Yucca Mountain because it fulfills the Federal government's promise to remove the nuclear waste currently stored in Wisconsin.

Although I support this site, I still have concerns regarding transport of the waste through our population centers. With today's homeland security concerns, we need to ensure that every effort is made to choose the best routes, prepare the local emergency response units, and continue to improve the casks in which the waste will be moved. However, the industry has an excellent record of thousands of cross-country shipments without incident, which reassures me that these concerns will be adequately addressed. As the issue of nuclear energy comes before Congress in the future, please know that I will continue to support safe and efficient methods of handling and storing our nation's nuclear waste.

MILWAUKEE OFFICE:  
310 WEST WISCONSIN AVENUE  
SUITE 950  
MILWAUKEE, WI 53203  
(414) 297-4451  
T.T.Y. (414) 297-4485

MADISON OFFICE:  
14 WEST MIFFLIN STREET  
SUITE 207  
MADISON, WI 53703  
(608) 264-5338

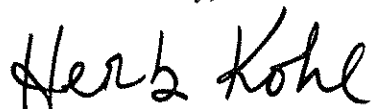
EAU CLAIRE OFFICE:  
402 GRAHAM AVENUE  
SUITE 206  
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701  
(715) 832-8424

APPLETON OFFICE:  
4321 WEST COLLEGE AVENUE  
SUITE 235  
APPLETON, WI 54914  
(920) 738-1640

LACROSSE OFFICE:  
425 STATE STREET  
SUITE 202  
LACROSSE, WI 54601  
(608) 796-0045

Again, thank you for contacting me. I appreciate hearing your thoughts on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Herb Kohl". The letters are cursive and fluid, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

Herb Kohl  
United States Senator

HK:aj