

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4906

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April 18, 2007

Representative Phil Montgomery
P.O. Box 2536
Madison, WI 53701-2536

Dear Representative Montgomery:

Thank you for contacting me concerning nuclear energy. I appreciated hearing of your recent actions on the state level concerning this issue. I was also interested to read the resolution you included in your letter.

The management of nuclear waste has posed difficult issues for the country since the beginning of the nuclear power industry. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 committed the federal government to the management and disposal of nuclear waste. The original goal of starting to load waste into the Yucca Mountain repository in 1998 has long past, with the Department of Energy (DOE) recently announcing that it does not expect to open the Yucca Mountain facility until 2017 at the earliest.

Nuclear energy is an important source of electricity in our state's energy picture. As you mentioned in your letter, the inability to move spent nuclear fuel to a permanent facility has negatively impacted both operators of nuclear power plants and Wisconsin customers.

You should know that I have continually voted in favor of legislative proposals that would support the goal of moving spent nuclear fuel to a permanent location. Recently, the Administration submitted a nuclear waste proposal to Congress that would aim to redirect the nuclear waste program in order to help ensure the 2017 goal of opening the Yucca Mountain facility.

Although, I am not on a committee with jurisdiction over this or similar legislation, you can be sure that I will continue to monitor the situation with Wisconsin's interests in mind. I believe that nuclear energy will be a vital part of our current and future energy portfolio until newer, cleaner and more efficient technologies become affordable.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Petri
Member of Congress

TEP:lb