Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

July 6, 2010

Secretary Stephen Chu
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0002

Dear Secretary Chu:

We write today to request that the Department of Energy immediately halt all actions to dismantle operations at Yucca Mountain at least until legal action regarding the withdrawal of the application is resolved by the DC Circuit Court and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The DC Circuit Court has taken the important step of approving the motion to expedite legal actions and has combined the cases involving the State of Washington, State of South Carolina, Aiken County, and Tri-Cities, Washington community leaders. This is a clear demonstration by the Court that the merits of the case must be heard and ruled upon prior to further action by the Department of Energy to shut down Yucca Mountain.

On June 29, 2010, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board denied the Department's motion to withdraw its license application for Yucca Mountain, a clear statement that the Department does not have the authority under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to unilaterally terminate Yucca Mountain.

In light of the recent legal and regulatory actions, we are deeply troubled that the Department continues to move forward with terminating the project regardless of this decision. We are also concerned that the Department is using its budget proposal in an attempt to justify the termination of Yucca Mountain.

As you know, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act designated Yucca Mountain as the only candidate site for the national repository. Congressional intent is clear – Congress has voted several times to retain Yucca Mountain as the national repository. We are deeply disappointed that DOE has overstepped its bounds and has ignored congressional intent without peer review or proper scientific documentation in its actions regarding Yucca Mountain.

We ask that you recognize the letter and spirit of the law, honor the timeline set by the court, and halt all efforts to reprogram funds or terminate contracts related to Yucca Mountain.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Patty Murray

Lisa Murkowski

Lamar Alexander

Jim Clark

Kay Bailey Hutchison

Mary Landrieu

Olympia Snowe

Kit Bond

Geo. L. Mix

Saxby Chambliss

Don Hoff

Jim DeMint

John McCain

John Cornyn

Jim Bunning

[illegible]

[illegible]

Jeff Sessions

Mike Enzi

Jim E Risch

Thad Cochran

Mike Crapo

John Barrasso

Susan Collins

Sam Brownback

Norm Dicks

John Sprague

James E. Clyburn

Eric Cantor

Jerry Dugell

Lee Boxton

Pinder Davis

Fred Upton

R. Nelinghuysen

Mike Penn

Cathy McMorris Rodgers

D. Beckett

W. Jones

Rick Larsen

Joe Wilson

Henry E Brown Jr

Ben Inglis

Bart Stupak

Paul C Brown

Ginny Brown-Waite

Richard Griffiths

[illegible]

Stu Sculli

John Shadegg

Pete Olson

John Linder

Mark Kirk

Judy Biggert

John Kline

Kach Wolf

Shus Peery

[illegible]

Lynn Jenkins

Blaine Luetkemeyer

[illegible]

Robt E. Andrews

Brett Guthrie

Bob Goodlatte

Jeff Sharma

John Sim

Paul E. Kanjorski

John J Duncan Jr

E Bonner

Jo Bonner

[illegible]

Jack Kingston

Ralph M. Hall

Joe Courtney

Jerry Rehberg

[illegible] IV-19

[illegible]

Sue Myrick

Ken Calvert

Donald Manzullo

Pete Sessions

Lee Terry

Greg Walden

[illegible]

Harold Rogers

[illegible]

Jim Sensenbrenner

Michele Bachmann

[illegible]

Lil Rogers

Ed Whitfield