

JOHN KLINE  
2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR  
SENIOR REPUBLICAN

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES



1210 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2271

101 WEST BURNSVILLE PARKWAY  
SUITE 201  
BURNSVILLE, MN 55337  
(952) 808-1213

KLINE.HOUSE.GOV

UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 26, 2010

The Honorable Lee Hamilton  
LtGen Brent Scowcroft, USAF (Ret.)  
Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Congressman Hamilton and Lieutenant General Scowcroft:

Congratulations on your recent appointment to the Department of Energy Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future. As you may know, the Prairie Island Indian Community, near Red Wing, Minnesota, which is located in my Congressional District, is the site of one of two nuclear generating plants in the State of Minnesota. I am very concerned about the issue of nuclear waste storage as it pertains to my Congressional District and the future of nuclear energy in our country.

During this year's State of the Union Address, I was pleased to hear President Obama state before Congress and the American people that we need invest and build a new generation of safe, clean nuclear power plants in this country. I also appreciate Secretary Chu's commitment to develop a safe long-term solution to managing the nation's nuclear waste.

While I welcome these recent developments, I am troubled that the President's Fiscal Year 2011 budget terminates the application of the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). According to the Administration, they have "determined that Yucca Mountain, Nevada, is not a workable option for a nuclear waste repository." The budget cuts all funding for development of the facility, transportation access, and additional engineering. It is important to note that Yucca Mountain is still by law the nation's solution for spent nuclear fuel, and the President's budget raises questions about how the license can be pulled without exposing the U.S. Government to potentially billions of dollars in liability payments. Under the Department of Energy's contract with utilities, the government was supposed to start taking spent fuel from power plants by 1998 (which is currently being stored at sites across the country). This decision to scrap Yucca Mountain as a solution for spent fuel increases uncertainty for industry and jeopardizes the future of nuclear power in the U.S. Yucca is the only permanent storage option already approved by Congress.

While I appreciate the formation of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future to review and make recommendations on issues for the storage, processing, and disposal of spent nuclear fuel and waste, I respectfully request that you do not take the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository off the table as a viable storage site for radioactive waste management.

Communities like Prairie Island and the City of Red Wing, in my Congressional District and throughout the country, need to have the ability to remove nuclear waste from its premises for the safety and security of its residents.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



JOHN KLINE  
Member of Congress

cc: Secretary of Energy Steven Chu