

STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Roy E. Barnes
GOVERNOR

June 15, 2001

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

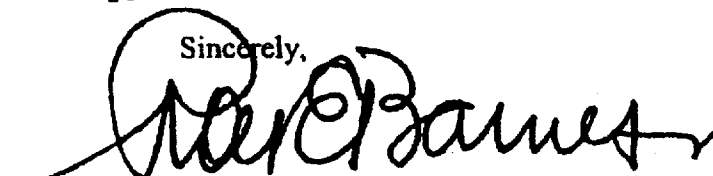
As you know, the State of Georgia and the rest of the nation still face a critical need to dispose permanently of used fuel from nuclear energy plants. While significant scientific results have been achieved, past delays have put the federal repository program more than a decade behind schedule.

Over \$7 billion has been spent during the past 15 years in studying Yucca Mountain. Projections show that the proposed repository will be able to contain the radioactive materials safely for 10,000 years or longer. The electricity consumers of my state have committed over \$621 million to the project, while 1,635 metric tons of used nuclear fuel has accumulated at power reactors in Georgia. It seems quite clear that the Yucca Mountain option is far superior to continued storage at our reactors along the shores of the Altamaha and Savannah Rivers. Nuclear power accounts for 26.8 percent of electricity generation in this state. Inaction on the part of the Department of Energy could jeopardize our continued use of nuclear energy: a key component in maintaining a diverse energy supply and meeting our clean air goals.

The responsibility for managing spent fuel and high-level radioactive waste should not be shifted to future generations, but should be taken care of by those who benefit from its use. It is imperative that progress be maintained on the evaluation of Yucca Mountain. Critical milestones must be met this year including the issuance of the Site Suitability Evaluation Report and ultimately, a recommendation to you that the site is suitable for long-term storage of waste.

I urge you to make used nuclear fuel disposal one of your highest priorities.

Sincerely,



Roy E. Barnes

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