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ETHICS



Joe Courtney  
Congress of the United States

2nd District, Connecticut

October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

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The Honorable Lee Hamilton, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Brent Scowcroft, Co-Chair  
Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Forrestal Building 7A-257  
1000 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC. 20585

Dear Chairman Hamilton and Chairman Scowcroft:

I want to thank the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future for its efforts to date to address the need for expedited removal of spent nuclear fuel from shutdown reactor sites. I applaud the Commission for including statements to address the needs of shutdown reactor sites in the Commission's Draft Report to the Secretary of Energy, and I urge their inclusion in the Commission's final report.

It is time for the country to address the long-overdue needs of these facilities and the communities that surround them, and I commend the Commission for reflecting that need in the language of their report. In particular, I applaud the Commission's recommendation for the creation of a consolidated interim storage site which would allow for the removal of spent fuel from sites like the Connecticut Yankee Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation facility in Haddam, Connecticut. Transferring this stranded fuel out of our communities and into a new central site will ease significantly the financial burden of security and monitoring expenses ratepayers currently shoulder to store this spent fuel. In addition, ensuring that the spent fuel from these shutdown reactor sites be first in line for the transfer to a consolidated interim facility, as the Commission recommends, will quickly allow these facilities to be completely decommissioned and reclaimed for other productive uses within their respective communities.

As I know the Commission concurs, the indefinite long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel at decommissioned sites like Connecticut Yankee was never the intended outcome of past federal law and regulations. It is unacceptable that so many of our local communities are trapped by federal inaction in dealing with this unsustainable situation, and I commend the Commission for their efforts to move forward. While the U.S has waited far too long for a permanent solution to the safe repository of spent nuclear fuel, I applaud the Commission's recommendations, and I

thank the Commission for their understanding of the direct and immediate benefits of removing spent fuel from shutdown reactor sites.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Courtney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "J" and "C".

JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress