



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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October 20, 2011

Lieutenant General Brent Scowcroft, Co-Chair
Honorable Lee Hamilton, Co-Chair
Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future
1000 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Attention: Timothy A. Frazier

Dear Co-Chairmen:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, I would like to respond to the *Draft Report to the Secretary of Energy* released by the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future on July 29, 2011. The report is a meaningful document that addresses important issues on managing the United States' nuclear waste program to ensure the longevity and growth of one of the nation's critical sources of electricity generation. As the nation's demand for energy grows, we will need all fuel sources to provide reliable and affordable electricity.

The report devotes important discussion about fuel reprocessing and recycling, and acknowledges that future recycling/reprocessing technologies could allow for a greater fraction of the material in spent fuel to be recovered and re-used. Furthermore, there is general agreement that such reprocessing is a necessary component of the long-term viability of nuclear energy in the United States. While there is discussion of recycling/reprocessing in the report, the commissioners note the primary charge to them was to address the more immediate problem of managing the nation's current nuclear waste stream.

Kentucky is home to the only U.S.-owned uranium enrichment facility in the United States, the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. We are proud of the state's 60-year history supporting the nuclear energy industry. As the United States moves forward in addressing all issues surrounding the nuclear energy fuel cycle, we believe Kentucky has an important role to play and we will continue to support the industry in the future.



LIEUTENANT GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT, CO-CHAIR
HONORABLE LEE HAMILTON, CO-CHAIR
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Paducah is the center of nuclear activities in Kentucky, and as our nation's nuclear future evolves in technologies, specifically in areas such as spent fuel recycling, this region can contribute. The benefits of the Paducah location are numerous. We are geographically in the heart of many of the current nuclear power plants, thereby minimizing transportation distances of spent nuclear materials and we have good transportation, especially roadways and rail. More importantly, we have a community in Paducah and the surrounding region that has been and continues to be very supportive of the nuclear industry.

We look forward to continuing the dialogue with the federal government and Congress as the process to consider the Commission's recommendations goes forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven L. Beshear". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Beshear" clearly legible.

Steven L. Beshear