

January 28, 2009

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kirkpatrick:

I am writing to congratulate you on your election to the United States House of Representatives. It will be an honor to work with you on the important issues facing this country in the coming years.

As you may know, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is an independent agency established by the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 to regulate civilian nuclear power and use of nuclear materials. Our mission is to protect the public health and safety and the environment, and to maintain the common defense and security. In carrying out that mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we face several important challenges. The agency has received a total of 17 combined license applications for 26 new nuclear power plants across the country and expects to receive an additional 3 applications for another 5 nuclear power plants in 2009. As a result, NRC's challenges will include the efficient management of these applications for new commercial nuclear plants while continuing to ensure the safe operation of existing plants. We must also look ahead and prepare for the development of new reactor designs and fuel cycle concepts. Additionally, NRC must maintain its regulation of nuclear materials to ensure the safety in uses for medical and industrial purposes. Most importantly, we must continue to develop the human resources that the NRC will need to have to ensure continued public safety and environmental quality.

The NRC has established a framework of regulatory stability to both keep current nuclear plants safe and secure as well as meet these emerging challenges. However, we continually assess and strive to improve our efforts as needed.

I would welcome the opportunity to brief you or your staff about the NRC. If this would be helpful, please contact Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, at 301-415-1776 or [Rebecca.Schmidt@nrc.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Schmidt@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Dale E. Klein

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betsy Markey  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge  
United States House of Representatives  
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The Honorable Mary Jo Kilroy  
United States House of Representatives  
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The Honorable Kathy Dahlkemper  
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The Honorable Suzanne M. Kosmas  
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The Honorable Debbie Halvorson  
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The Honorable Lynn Jenkins  
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The Honorable Dina Titus  
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The Honorable Cynthia M. Lummis  
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The Honorable Bobby N. Bright  
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The Honorable Parker Griffith  
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The Honorable Tom McClintock  
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The Honorable Duncan D. Hunter  
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The Honorable Jared Polis  
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The Honorable Mike Coffman  
United States House of Representatives  
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The Honorable Frank M. Kratovil, Jr.  
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The Honorable Mark Schauer  
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The Honorable Gary Peters  
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The Honorable Erik Paulsen  
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The Honorable Gregg Harper  
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The Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer  
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The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
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The Honorable Steve Driehaus  
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The Honorable Steve Austria  
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The Honorable Martin T. Heinrich  
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The Honorable Harry Teague  
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The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan  
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The Honorable Michael E. McMahon  
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The Honorable Paul D. Tonko  
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The Honorable Dan Maffei  
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The Honorable Christopher Lee  
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The Honorable Eric Massa  
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The Honorable Pedro Pierluisi  
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The Honorable Phil Roe  
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The Honorable Jason Chaffetz  
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The Honorable Glenn C. Nye  
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The Honorable Tom Perriello  
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The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly  
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The Honorable Larry Kissell  
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