

**SOUTHEASTERN
ASSOCIATION OF
REGULATORY
UTILITY
COMMISSIONERS**

September 7, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Reid, Senator McConnell, Speaker Boehner, and Representative Pelosi:

The Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC), comprised of the public utility commissions of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Puerto Rico, urges Congress to:

- continue the call for prompt action by the Department of Energy (DOE) toward meeting its obligation to remove used nuclear fuel from reactor sites in our states through the development of consolidated storage and permanent disposal facilities as well as the necessary transportation infrastructure;
- protect our ratepayers by supporting both near-term actions and legislative reforms to ensure that the Nuclear Waste Fund is used for used nuclear fuel management, as was intended, and that the Fund is not used for unrelated federal budget items; and
- appropriate necessary funds for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to continue its lawful and important review of the Yucca Mountain license application to determine its suitability to become the nation's first geologic repository.

SEARUC believes the actions it requests of you are largely aligned with the strategy offered by the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future (BRC) in January to establish a sound waste management approach for the safe handling and storage of nuclear waste. The BRC included in its proposed strategy a number of specific recommendations which states have long proposed, and it urged DOE to act with all due speed to accomplish recommendations that may be implemented without legislative action. In accordance with the BRC's message of urgency, SEARUC asks that you expeditiously advance those BRC recommendations that are consistent with our requests and we ask that you take the additional step of facilitating the completion of the Yucca Mountain license application review by allocating funds for that express purpose.

Our member states thank you for your consideration and welcome the opportunity to work with you toward the timely adoption of a safe and lasting solution for managing nuclear waste disposal in the United States.

Sincerely,

ToNola D. Brown-Bland

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ToNOLA D. BROWN - BLAND
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