

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 21, 2015

The Honorable Ernest Moniz
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz:

As members of the San Diego Delegation in Congress, we write to you regarding the nuclear waste stored at the closed San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS). We ask that you detail the Department of Energy (DOE)'s actions to remove and relocate this radioactive nuclear waste to a region less geographically vulnerable than San Diego County.

We are concerned that the waste at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station is a hazard to San Diego and California residents. Currently, more than 1,400 metric tons of radioactive nuclear waste, accumulated from over 45 years of operations, is stored at the plant. SONGS is located in a high earthquake zone and sits adjacent to the Pacific Ocean and Interstate 5, one of California's most trafficked freeways. This location is vulnerable to seismic events, corrosion, possible tsunamis, and other potential risks. The region does not have the equipment, personnel, or training to manage an emergency involving this large a quantity of radioactive material, especially since SONGS was never intended to be a permanent repository for the generated waste.

Safe disposal of highly radioactive nuclear byproducts in a permanent repository is necessary for all nuclear sites. The 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act defines a timeline for establishing a permanent, underground geologic repository for high-level radioactive waste and set a deadline of 1998 for DOE to start transferring used fuel from nuclear energy facilities to a permanent storage site. The deadline established by this Act has long passed. We urge DOE to prioritize transferring nuclear waste from higher risk sites like San Onofre's plant as soon as possible before any leakage occurs, and to update us on DOE's progress in finding a temporary or permanent storage for spent fuel.

Furthermore, DOE Electricity consumers have paid into the Nuclear Waste Fund established by this Act since 1983, accruing \$750 million a year to result in a current amount of \$30 billion. We ask how DOE is using these funds to pursue a feasible storage facility for the more than 70,000 metric tons of radioactive waste stored at reactors across the country. San Diego and the nation are ready for action on safely storing the country's nuclear waste.

Thank you for your attention to and swift action on this matter.

Sincerely,



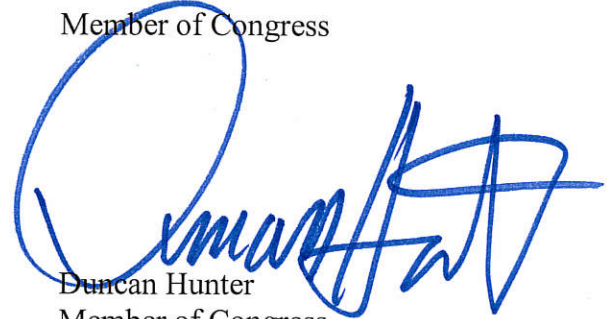
Scott Peters
Member of Congress



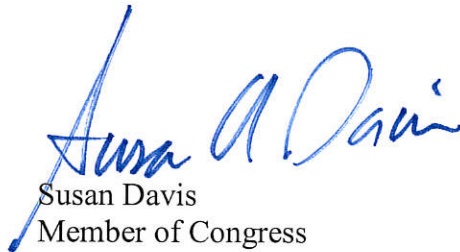
Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress