

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

December 7, 2015

The Honorable Stephen G. Burns
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Burns:

We write in regard to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) recent advance notice of proposed rulemaking to seek public comments on proposed changes to the regulations regarding the decommissioning of nuclear plants. While we commend the NRC for proposing these long overdue regulations, we believe the short public comment period and the plan to have a single public meeting will not give local and state stakeholders sufficient opportunities to participate meaningfully in the rulemaking process.

We strongly believe that public meetings should be held in or near nuclear plants' host communities, and should provide attendees with ample opportunities to ask questions and understand the meaning and scope of the proposed rulemaking. Likewise, the comment period should be long enough to give a broad range of stakeholders sufficient time to formulate substantive comments to NRC. The current proposal, which extends throughout the holidays and ends on January 4, falls short of providing satisfactory time to comment.

We therefore respectfully request that NRC: (1) hold public meetings in each of the states in which a nuclear power plant is currently being decommissioned, or will be decommissioned in the next four years; and (2) extend the deadline for public comments to February 4, 2016. We believe these changes will more broadly engage host communities in the decommissioning process, which has unfortunately lacked a satisfactory role in the decommissioning planning process to date. Additionally, as NRC staff mentioned in the advanced notice of proposed rulemaking, regulations may take until 2019 to finalize. In the meantime, we request that NRC implement its existing regulations, instead of approving routine exemptions from existing safety, emergency response, security and financial surety requirements.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact Katie Thomas in Senator Sanders' office (katie_thomas@sanders.senate.gov) or Michal Freedhoff in Senator Markey's office (michal_freedhoff@markey.senate.gov) with questions.

Sincerely,

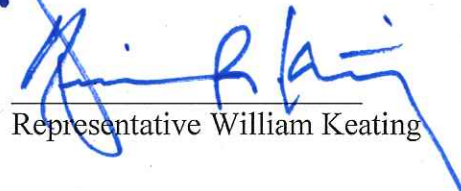

Senator Bernard Sanders


Senator Edward J. Markey


Senator Patrick Leahy


Senator Elizabeth Warren


Representative Peter Welch


Representative William Keating