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President Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

I am writing to you about proposed changes in regulations which would allow the recycling of radioactive materials and waste into consumer products. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is in the process of legalizing the "release" or "clearance" of radioactive materials from licensed, regulated control into raw materials, building supplies and items with which we come into daily contact. This would apply to contaminated parts, concrete rubble, and soil from maintenance and decommissioning of nuclear power plants. And, according to Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS), the Department of Energy is already sending radioactively contaminated metals from nuclear weapons sites to regular scrap yards to mix with clean metal for unrestricted public use. These changes are unacceptable as they will expose the public to unknown amounts and unnecessary radiation.

The purpose of these changes is to save money for the nuclear industry, which is not cost-competitive with other energy sources. But PUBLIC HEALTH should be our first priority, not the financial health of the nuclear industry.

There is no safe level of exposure to ionizing radiation, so it makes sense to prevent all unnecessary exposures. Some scientists have shown that risks from routine low doses may actually cause more damage (per unit dose) than single high dose exposures.

Exposure to ionizing radiation increases the risks of cancer, leukemia, genetic defects, illness resulting from reduced immunity and other health effects. The developing embryo and fetus, young children, the elderly and those with already impaired health face the greatest risk.

We could be exposed to radiation from many different contaminated consumer products, building materials, etc. The risks add up and are multiplied when we are exposed to more radiation and other carcinogens in our lives.

These radioactive materials should be isolated from the environment and the public for as long as they remain radioactive, in some cases hundreds or thousands of years.

Mr. President, I ask you to issue an Executive Order prohibiting radioactive wastes and materials from entering the consumer marketplace, landfills, incinerators, anywhere except licensed radioactive facilities; directing EPA, NRC, and DOE to: (1) keep all radioactive waste under strict control (2) recapture radioactive wastes already released, and (3) work for an international prohibition on radioactive "releases".

Once again, the public should not be exposed to this involuntary and significant health threat so that the nuclear industry can save money!

Sincerely,  
*Richard W. Weiskopf*  
Richard W. Weiskopf MD

CC: Post Standard  
Herald Journal  
Vice President Albert Gore  
Senator Daniel Moynihan

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