

TOM BEVILL

4th DISTRICT. ALABAMA

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
RANKING MEMBER

INTERIOR

WASHINGTON OFFICE.
2302 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0104
TELEPHONE: 202 225-4876



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0104
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DISTRICT OFFICES
ROOMS 102 104
THE FEDERAL BUILDING
CULLMAN AL 35055
TELEPHONE 205 734 6043

ROOM 107
THE FEDERAL BUILDING
GADSDEN. AL 35001
TELEPHONE 205 546 0201

ROOM 247 FEDERAL BUILDING
1710 ALABAMA AVENUE
JASPER. AL 35501
TELEPHONE 205 221 2310

Mr. John E. Cantlon
Chairman
United States Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board
1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter which outlines the views of the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board regarding the Department of Energy's Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Program. I appreciate having the benefit of your views and thoughtful comments on the challenge of disposing of our nation's nuclear waste.

Like you, I am encouraged by the recent accomplishments in gathering site suitability data at Yucca Mountain. I regret, however, that the good progress of the past year was so late in coming. Real progress toward federal acquisition and final disposition of civilian nuclear waste is what Congress demands. With this in mind, Congress should remain open to any program that promises a safe, efficient and expedient solution to the nuclear waste dilemma.

Please know that your comments and the views of the Board will weigh heavily on my study of DOE's civilian and defense nuclear waste disposal funding needs for fiscal year 1997. I am always open to your ideas, comments and advice and welcome the opportunity for you to brief me or my staff member, Don Medley, on the findings of your study of the storage and disposal of commercial spent fuel.

Thank you again for your letter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom Bevill".

Tom Bevill, M. C.