



**Sustainable Fuel Cycle Task Force Science Panel**

[sustainablefuelcyclesciencepanel.org](http://sustainablefuelcyclesciencepanel.org)

November 14, 2017

Dear Secretary Perry,

On behalf of the Sustainable Fuel Cycle Task Force (SFCTF) Science Panel, we greatly appreciate your efforts to move forward our Nation's stalled nuclear waste program. We appreciate your going to Yucca Mountain as your first official trip out of the DC area. We now urge you to do all that is possible to obtain the necessary FY 2018 funding to resume the critical path Yucca Mountain NRC licensing process.

We are scientists who have worked for decades to provide a scientifically sound approach for safely managing and disposing of used nuclear fuel and high level radioactive wastes. It is our opinion, that the science behind Yucca Mountain was conducted to the highest standards, has withstood countless peer reviews, and is sound. However, this huge investment is for naught if the final NRC licensing process remains stalled.

The NRC licensing process is almost complete and it now imperative that the NRC and DOE complete the licensing process to determine if the site is worthy of receiving a Construction Authorization. As is already provided for in our national regulatory process, the State of Nevada and other intervenor's concerns should be fairly resolved in an open and transparent manner before impartial NRC judges. This process should be allowed to resume and continue to its conclusion without political interference. Over the past eight years, politics have been used to run roughshod over science, and it is now time to put science and the interests of our nation ahead of personal political agendas.

It is the collective view of our Panel that it is essential that we move forward with implementing our national repository program and leave our country a better place for future generations. Saddling our children and grandchildren with spent nuclear fuel in dozens of temporary storage locations across the country adjacent to our rivers, lakes, and seashores along with seemingly endless financial liabilities for engineered storage is irresponsible. We need to act and the time is now.

We thank you for your leadership in this important and critical area.

Yours sincerely for the Science Panel,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Fairhurst".

Charles Fairhurst, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Warner North".

D. Warner North Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Weiner".

Ruth Weiner, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isaac Winograd".

Isaac Winograd, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendell D. Weart".

Wendell Weart, Ph.D.

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