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May 21, 2021

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm,

We write to introduce you to our coalition, Action for Spent Fuel Solutions Now (ASFSN), and to seek an opportunity to partner with the Department of Energy (DOE) on solutions to the decades-long effort to find a home for the nation's commercial spent nuclear fuel.

ASFSN is a new group of local governments, elected officials, utilities, environmental groups, labor leaders, Native American leaders, business organizations and other community members dedicated to relocating the spent fuel stored at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) to a federally licensed off-site facility. While relocating the spent fuel has long been a priority for Orange and San Diego counties, development of the coalition was prompted at the recommendation of members of the California Coastal Commission.

Since SONGS began operating a half-century ago on Navy-owned lands at Camp Pendleton, spent fuel has been safely maintained on-site as the federal government debated where and how to store the nation's growing stockpile. Currently, all spent fuel generated during the plant's lifetime, that remains onsite, sits in 123 stainless steel canisters along the coast at San Onofre in northern San Diego County. This remains the case despite the federal government's obligations under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (Public Law 97-425) and by contract to assume title, liability and transportation of the spent fuel in 1998. Clearly, a solution to the spent fuel at SONGS and dozens of other facilities around the country is long overdue.

ASFSN is encouraged by the comments you provided during your confirmation hearing as well as at the May 6 House Appropriations Subcommittee on the administration's FY 2022 budget request. The coalition is fully supportive of the Administration's consensus-based approach to siting one or more consolidated interim storage (CIS) facilities and permanent repositories. Additionally, we appreciate your remarks about DOE's intent to begin engaging stakeholders in the coming months and are eager to be part of those discussions.

Enactment of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Public Law 116-260) late last year provides added reason for optimism. The \$27.5 million appropriated for DOE's nuclear waste disposal activities (including funding related to interim storage activities) as well as the \$3.6 million to fund the work of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board represents the most significant investment by the federal government in addressing the nation's spent fuel storage challenge in a decade. ASFSN would like the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss the use of those funds and offer our suggestions.

Thank you for prioritizing the nation's spent nuclear fuel storage issue. We are grateful for your help and eager to partner with you on identifying solutions. Please feel free to contact Chris Wahl, ASFSN's Executive Director, at (858) 290-1373 to coordinate the requested meeting.

Sincerely,



Lisa Bartlett
Co- Chair
Supervisor
County of Orange



Jim Desmond
Co-Chair
Supervisor
San Diego County