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STATE OF WYOMING
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JIM GERINGER
GOVERNOR

STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

January 24, 2002

Mr. Richard A. Meserve
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

**Re: Petition for Rulemaking to Exempt Uranium Recovery Licensees from
Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Part 170 and 171 Fees**

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Wyoming has an Energy Commission with similar goals as the National Energy Policy Development Group commissioned by President Bush. In the short tenure of this Commission, we have among other things, advocated for the continued viability of the uranium recovery industry. Now more than ever, it is **in the public interest** that this industry continue to grow while providing our country with its needed raw material to help America become energy independent, which is directly tied to our national security posture. For further evidence, in 2001, the NRC declared that the continued existence of the only remaining conventional uranium mill in Wyoming was also in the public interest.

For these reasons, we are writing to support the petition for rulemaking [**Federal Register Volume 66, Number 213, Friday, November 2, 2001 pages 55604 to 55607**] and ask the NRC to waive the assessment of all annual and periodic inspection and licensing fees currently imposed on NRC uranium recovery operations. With depressed domestic uranium prices, continued assessment of these fees will result in fewer and fewer licensees as businesses are forced to shut down because they cannot afford to operate.

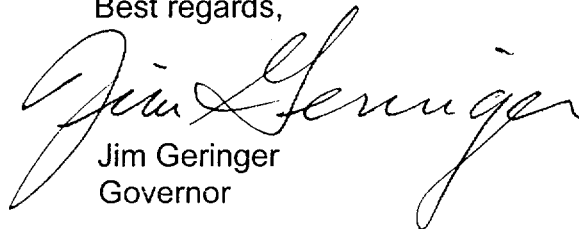
When and if the price for uranium increases to an acceptable level and there is a sufficient number of licensees contributing to the program, then the fee program should be reinstated.



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We urge the NRC and you, Mr. Chairman, to rule in favor of this petition as it is clearly in the public's interest that the uranium recovery industry continues to operate.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jim Geringer". The signature is fluid and extends to the right, with a long, sweeping tail.

Jim Geringer
Governor

JG:dm