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To: Blue Ribbon Commission

January 19, 2012

Good Afternoon, I am Irma M. Howarth from AVL, NC, retired Clinical Soc Worker & Psychotherapist. I am concerned about the safety & health effects from toxic nuclear waste.

- A recently released paper from the Nuclear Information Resource Service shows that radiation is 50% more harmful to women than previously recognized. I quote:

"A women is at significantly greater risk of suffering & dying from radiation-induced cancer than a man who gets the same dose of ionizing radiation. This is news because data in the report on the biological effect of ionizing radiation published in 2006 by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has been under reported. It is more often acknowledged that children are at higher risk of disease & death from radiation, but it is rarely pointed out that the regulation of radiation & nuclear activity (worldwide) ignores the disproportionately greater harm to both women & children."

I again quote "The current limits for most industrial radiation in the U.S. allow fatal cancer members of the general public at a rate that is between 300 to 3000 times higher than the legal rate of harm from most other industrial hazards." This is very disturbing!!

Transporting toxic nuclear waste on our highways to deposit it at some unknown repository or recycling site & hauling these toxic, dangerous waste on our highways is frightening & not safe. Currently used to transport by truck or rail are the unsafe nuclear waste shipping casks that emits neutron & gamma radiation & are more prone to accidents at they travel our curvy mountain roads. I contend that toxic waste should not be stored in someone else's back yard!! Keep the toxic waste where it is created! Implement HOSS, Hardened On-Site Storage & keep toxic nuclear waste at it's source.

After the recent Fukishima disaster we see proof again that it can happen - unanticipated natural disaster, human error & failings, terrorist threats, system malfunction can happen despite all the reassurances the nuclear industry & the NRC/Nuclear Regulatory Commission make. Toxic radiation knows no boundaries - Chernobyl radiation reached CA in 10 days. Thousands died & continue dying today. TMI came close to being worse than Chernobyl. Fukishima radiation fallout easily reached CA & our East coast.

As a taxpayer I don't want my money going to support & subsidize dirty-toxic energy - phase out nuclear! Support viable, sustainable & clean alternatives that also create many more permanent jobs.