

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES
CHAIRMAN
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
AND RELATED AGENCIES

NATIONAL SECURITY

INTERIOR

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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SUZANNE EISOLD
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September 27, 1996

The Honorable Shirley Ann Jackson
Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Jackson:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has informed states that the NRC has been mandated by Congress to be entirely self-supporting. While I appreciate your efforts at implementing the intent of Congress, I have great concern with the manner in which the Commission has chosen to achieve its goal. I am referring to the Commission policy which incorporates the cessation of financial support for Agreement State Radiation Protection Programs in training support costs, including travel and per diem costs, to attend previously sponsored NRC regulatory and technical training sessions. I believe that the states currently implement certain radiation control programs in lieu of the NRC and the only support offered by the NRC has traditionally been the training resources now scheduled for cessation. I understand that your policy is to take effect on October 1, 1996.

I understand that while financial assistance to Agreement States is being rescinded, international students will continue to be accepted for training by the NRC with their associated training costs absorbed by the NRC. While I am a proponent of international technology sharing, it concerns me that certain states could possibly lose the benefit of support before NRC's complete consideration of other funding options. For a state like New Mexico, where all Radiation Protection Program costs are funded through the State's General Fund, the cessation of minimal training cost (approx. \$15,000/year) represents a severe financial hardship for the New Mexico Radiation Control Program. Conversely, that amount is nominal to the overall NRC budget.

I will appreciate your reconsideration of the discontinuation of funding Agreement States for training needs at the earliest possible date. I also ask that you consider innovative methods for continuing this valuable asset to the states in their implementation of NRC mandated programs. Thank you in advance for any assistance you may be able to provide in this matter.

Sincerely,



Joe Skeen
Member of Congress