

TO: Mr. Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20006
Mr. Christopher T. Hanson, Commissioner, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop O-16 B33, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001
Ms. Susan Collins, Maine U.S. Senator, 413 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
Mr. Angus King, Maine U.S. Senator, 133 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
Ms. Chellie Pingree, Maine U.S. Representative, 2162 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
Mr. Jared Golden, Maine U.S. Representative, 1222 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

FROM: Arline M. Poisson, P.O. Box 1721, Wells, ME 04090

DATE: February 7, 2022

RE: Nuclear Energy and Weapons Power

Good morning,

I am writing to ask all of you and your colleagues in this and future Congresses to please stop commissioning new nuclear power plants. I believe Barack H. Obama erred egregiously during his term as United States President in approving the construction of the first new nuclear power plants in the United States in thirty years. I am writing to ask all of you and your colleagues in this and future Congresses to immediately decommission all of the new nuclear power plants commissioned since Barack H. Obama's term as United States President.

I have yet to read any news story in recent years describing how nuclear waste is being effectively managed or reused. My memory of news stories during the past six decades concerning nuclear waste is that the waste is being stored underground in Nevada.

What kind of race develops such a lethal material without any regard for the consequences on the planet earth's natural environment and on human beings?

I applaud the countries that are decommissioning their nuclear power plants.

If nuclear energy is the greatest source of non-carbon-producing energy, then we as a country and as a world need to do a better job of conserving our consumption of energy, and of creating and growing alternative forms of non-carbon-creating energy.

Every day, Americans need to consider energy conservation as a factor in their decision making about how they eat, how they clothe themselves, how they heat their homes, how they light their homes, how they travel, and how many children they have.

THE PLANET EARTH'S RESOURCES ARE FINITE. Much in the same way that fisheries can be exhausted to the point of extinction, planet earth's resources can be consumed or thrown away to the point of there being nothing left for future generations.

Please don't waste any more of planet earth's resources on nuclear energy power and nuclear weapons power. There are vastly better ways to spend that money.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.



Nuclear exposure victims have made sacrifices – give them a break

Portland Press Herald February 5, 2022

My work with nuclear weapons and uranium workers has shown me that we must keep providing essential benefits to workers and their survivors.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

R. Hugh Stephens is the principal lawyer at Stephens & Stephens, a Buffalo, N.Y., firm. This column was produced for Progressive Perspectives, run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.

Every month or so, my law office will get a call from the spouse of a nuclear weapons or uranium worker who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. We help file a claim for the worker with the Department of Justice or the Department of Labor, both of which run a compensation program.

Typically, these claims can be handled in a matter of weeks. Modest compensation allocated through these programs provides help with medical bills and certain other financial obligations.

Most people don't realize that these programs exist, or even that our nuclear weapons system affects so many people across the country.

Originally known as the Manhattan Project, the U.S. nuclear weapons program in 1945 produced its first nuclear blast, the Trinity Test, in Alamogordo, New Mexico. But the impact of this testing has not been limited by either time or geography. Every

day, downwinders, on-site participants, uranium miners, millers and ore transporters are diagnosed with cancers, pulmonary fibrosis and other serious illnesses from exposures that happened decades ago. Even today, nuclear weapons workers are being made ill at facilities across the country.

Those who become sick as a result of work in the nuclear weapons manufacturing and testing industry are eligible for health care benefits and compensation from those two federal programs: the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program and the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program.

The programs, not unlike the Veterans Affairs program that provides benefits for U.S. soldiers, provide vital benefits to workers who have borne the brunt of the physical and finan-

cial toll imposed by the nation's nuclear weapons program.

Currently pending bills would extend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program and allow on-site participants and downwinders to receive medical care for their accepted conditions under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program. This would make their claims more similar to the other beneficiaries, including uranium miners, millers and ore transporters, thereby eliminating a flaw in the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program that prevents on-site participants throughout the country and downwinders in the Southwest from receiving the same medical benefits as uranium miners, millers and ore transporters receive.

Without action from Congress and the president, the Radia-

tion Exposure Compensation Program will expire in July. One path forward is a set of bipartisan bills introduced by Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (HR 5338) and Sen. Mike Crapo (S.2790). These bills extend and make important improvements to these compensation programs.

My experience working with nuclear weapons and uranium workers has shown me that these programs continue to provide essential benefits to workers and their survivors, whose lives have been disrupted by participation in the nuclear weapons program. Both of these programs should be extended and improved.

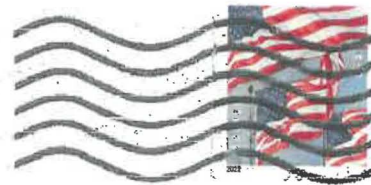
We owe that, at least, to those who have sacrificed their health in the service of the nation's nuclear ambitions.

— Progressive Perspectives

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Mr. Christopher T. Hanson

Commissioner

FEB 22 REC'D

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