May 25, 2011

Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on Energy

President Obama has asked that the Department of Energy’s Title 17 loan guarantee program for construction of new nuclear reactors be increased by $36 Billion in FY 2012. The President made an identical request for FY 2011, which was not approved by Congress.

We ask that you reject this new request for an increase in loan guarantee authority, and that you also act to rescind the $10.2 Billion unspent and remaining in the program, as well as the $8.3 Billion conditionally offered to Southern Company for the Vogtle nuclear project and any and all funds for nuclear fuel cycle facilities. In short, the Title 17 program for nuclear power should be ended.

The Fukushima nuclear disaster has undercut the entire public policy rationale for this program. When enacted in 2005, Congress believed that modest funding to support construction of six-to-eight new nuclear reactors would encourage private investment—even then reluctant to support nuclear power because of the financial risk of high construction costs and a historical record of delays—to follow. In 2007, Congress authorized $18.5 Billion to fund this program and an additional $2 Billion for nuclear fuel cycle facilities.

Since then, estimated construction costs have skyrocketed so that it would take more than $50 Billion to support construction of those same 6-8 new reactors. Fukushima has provided a stark reminder to the investment community that multi-billion dollar investments can turn into much larger liabilities overnight. 75 days ago, Tokyo Electric Power was one of the five largest electric utilities in the world. Today it is a shambles, facing tens—perhaps hundreds--of billions of dollars in liabilities.

The only reactors now being built in the world are being built entirely with government funds. The private investment community will not be putting its money into new nuclear power plants, no matter how much support is provided with tax dollars. Title 17 cannot and will not lead to greater private investment in nuclear power and thus cannot and will not achieve its goals.

This alone should be reason enough to end this program, before tax dollars are placed at risk. The American public agrees. According to a March 2011 poll conducted for the Civil Society Institute, 73% of the American people oppose federal loan guarantees for new nuclear reactors. An April 2011 ABC News/Washington Post poll found that 64% oppose new reactor construction entirely.
The world’s third and fourth largest economies—Japan and Germany—are embarking on new energy policies focused on clean renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, and away from nuclear power. These countries understand that clean energy is indeed the future and that clean energy plants do not explode and release toxic radiation across the world. The United States should join Japan and Germany and become a leader in clean energy rather than falling further behind in the race to implement the energy sources of the 21st century.

A necessary first step toward leading the march toward clean energy is to end the diversion of resources to nuclear energy. The Title 17 loan guarantee program for nuclear power unnecessarily risks billions of taxpayer dollars on a program that cannot meet its own goals and that simply diverts our limited resources away from the goal of safe, clean and affordable energy for our nation.

Again, please reject President Obama’s request for a $36 Billion increase in the Title 17 loan guarantee program and instead please end this risky and unnecessary program entirely.
Talia Rose, owner
Organic Grace
Garberville, CA

Dixie van der Kamp, Trustee
Corbin Harney Trust
Santa Rosa, CA

Gene Stone
Residents Organized for a Safe Environment
San Clemente, CA

Aletha
Co-Founder
Free Soil Party
Los Angeles, CA

Patricia Lawrence, Executive Director
Travel Radio International Audio Journeys (TM)
Palo Cedro, CA

Jeri Bodemar
Truth in Recruiting Network of Santa Cruz County.
Santa Cruz, CA

David Brisbin, President
White Pine Productions
Santa Monica, CA

Michael Welch
Redwood Alliance
Arcata, CA

Don Eichelberger, Staff
Abalone Alliance Safe Energy Clearinghouse
San Francisco, CA

David Hartsough, Executive Director
PEACEWORKERS
San Francisco, CA

Larry Harper, Committee Member
Peace Crane Project
Sonoma County, CA

Sue Hilderbrand, Director
Chico Peace & Justice Center
Chico, CA

Todd Steiner
Executive Director
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Forest Knolls, CA

Nancy Casady
Ocean Beach People's Organic Food Co-op
San Diego, CA

Robert M. Gould, MD
President
SF-Bay Area Chapter
Physicians for Social Responsibility
San Francisco, CA

Molly Johnson, area coordinator
Grandmothers for Peace/San Luis Obispo County Chapter
San Miguel, CA

Phoebe Sorgen
Berkeley Peace & Justice Commission Vice Chair
BFUU Social Justice Committee
Berkeley, CA

Jacqueline Cabasso, Executive Director
Western States Legal Foundation
Oakland, CA

Philip M. Klasky
Co-director, Bay Area Nuclear Waste Coalition
San Francisco, CA

Hunter Lovins
Natural Capitalism, Inc.
Longmont, CO

Bob Kinsey, Co Chair
The Colorado Coalition for the Prevention of Nuclear War
Denver CO

Catherine Meyrick, President
Tallahassee Area Community
Canon City, CO

Judith Mohling
Coordinator, Nuclear Nexus
Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center
Boulder, CO

Bob Kinsey and Judith Mohling
Co-chairs
Colorado Coalition for the Prevention of Nuclear War
Denver, CO

Claire Ryder, Chairperson
Denver Greens
Denver CO
John Victor Anderson  
CEO  
GarbageBusters  
LaPorte, CO  

N. York  
Poudre Valley Greens  
Fort Collins, CO  

Nancy Burton, Director  
Connecticut Coalition Against Millstone  
Redding, CT  

Judi Friedman, Chair  
PACE (People’s Action for Clean Energy)  
Canton, CT  

Erich Pica  
Executive Director  
Friends of the Earth  
Washington, DC  

Jim Riccio  
Greenpeace  
Washington, DC  

Lynn Thorp  
National Campaigns Coordinator  
Clean Water Action  
Washington, DC  

Tyson Slocum  
Public Citizen  
Washington, DC  

Susan Shaer  
Executive Director  
Women’s Action for New Directions  
Washington, DC  

Joan W. Drake, Treasurer  
Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom  
Washington, DC, Branch  

Alan Muller, Executive Director  
Green Delaware  
Port Penn, DE  

Cara L. Campbell, Chair  
Ecology Party of Florida  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL  

Rain Byars  
General Manager  
Rain or Shine Power LLC  
Saint Augustine, FL  

Ellen Peterson Chair  
Calusa Group, Sierra Club  
Fort Myers, FL  

Nancy O’Byrne  
Coordinator  
Pax Christi Northeast Florida  
St. Augustine, FL  

Michael Canney, co-chair  
Green Party of Florida  
Key West, FL  

Shawna Doran, co-chair  
Alachua County Green Party  
Alachua, FL  

Tom Conroy  
Conroy Roofing  
Naples, FL  

Glenn Carroll, Coordinator  
Nuclear Watch South  
Atlanta, GA  

Tom Ferguson, Coordinator  
Foundation for Global Community  
Atlanta, GA  

Bob Darby, Coordinator  
Food Not Bombs  
Atlanta, GA  

Adele Kushner, Executive Director  
Action for a Clean Environment  
Alto, GA  

Catherine Hirsch  
Citizens Against Nukes!  
Anahola, HI  

Liz Woodruff  
Executive Director  
Snake River Alliance  
Boise, ID  

David A. Kraft, Director  
Nuclear Energy Information Service  
Chicago, IL  

Maureen Headington  
President  
Stand Up/Save Lives Campaign  
Burr Ridge, IL
Grant Smith  
Executive Director  
Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana  
Indianapolis, IN

Patrick Bosold  
Conservation Chair  
Leopold Group, S.E. Iowa Chapter of Iowa Sierra Club  
Fairfield, IA

Jane E. Magers  
Coordinator  
Earth Care, Inc.  
Des Moines, IA

Ann Suellentrop M.S.R.N.  
Coordinator for Physicians for Social Responsibility - KC  
Kansas City, KS

William S. Linnell  
Spokesperson, Cheaper, Safer Power  
Portland, ME

Bruce K. Gagnon  
Coordinator  
Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space  
Brunswick, ME

Roger Leisner  
Radio Free Maine  
Augusta, ME

Lisa Savage  
CODEPINK Maine  
Solon, ME

Wells R. Staley-Mays  
Program and Community Organizer  
Peace Action Maine  
Portland, ME

Michael Mariotte  
Executive Director  
Nuclear Information and Resource Service  
Takoma Park, MD

Ken Bossong, Executive Director  
SUN DAY Campaign  
Takoma Park, MD

Dagmar Fabian, Secretary  
Crabshell Alliance of Greater Baltimore  
Cockeysville, MD

Jay Levy  
Committee Chair  
Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee  
Takoma Park, MD

Linda Schade  
Executive Director  
VotersForPeace.us  
Baltimore, MD

Kevin Kamps  
Radioactive Waste Watchdog  
Beyond Nuclear  
Takoma Park, MD

Dennis Nelson  
Support and Education for Radiation Victims, SERV  
Bethesda, MD

Max Obuszewski  
Baltimore Nonviolence Center  
Baltimore, MD

Tim Carpenter  
Director  
Progressive Democrats of America (PDA)  
Northampton, MA

Sandra Gavutis  
Executive Director  
C-10 Research & Education Foundation  
Newburyport, MA

Mary Lampert, Director  
Pilgrim Watch  
Duxbury, MA

Pat Granahan  
REACH (Responsible Energy Alternatives Coalition of Hingham)  
Hingham, MA

Rebecca Tippens, Director  
Center for Cultural Evolution, Inc  
Colrain, MA

The Enviro Show  
WXOJ-LP & WMCB  
Florence, MA

David Agnew, Coordinator  
Cape Downwinders  
Harwich, MA
Kathryn Barnes
Don't Waste Michigan
Sherwood, MI

Michael J. Keegan, Chair
Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Great Lakes
Monroe, MI

Alice Hirt, Co-Chair
Don't Waste Michigan
Holland, MI

Keith Gunter
Citizen's Resistance at Fermi Two
Monroe, MI

Gladys Schmitz, SSND
Mankato Area Environmentalists
Mankato, MN

Christine Frank, Coordinator
Climate Crisis Coalition of the Twin Cities
Minneapolis, MN

Lea Foushee
George Crocker
North American Water Office
Lake Elmo, MN

Mark Haim
Chair
Missourians for Safe Energy
Columbia, MO

Paul April, Chairperson
Peoples Coalition (St. Louis)
St. Louis, MO

Chris Daum
President
Oasis Montana Inc., Renewable Energy Supply & Design
Stevensville, MT

Aaron Huckfeldt
Operations Manager
Donald's Drive In
Chadron, NE

Megan Rice shcj
Nevada Desert Experience
Las Vegas, NV

Judy Treichel
Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force
Las Vegas, NV

Doug Bogen
Executive Director
Seacoast Anti-Pollution League
Exeter, NH

Paula Gotsch
Grandmothers, Mothers and More for Energy Safety (GRAMMES)
Normandy Beach, NJ

Lori Gold
Genesis Farm
Blairstown, NJ

Susan Gordon, Director
Alliance for Nuclear Accountability
Santa Fe, NM

Marian Naranjo, Director
Honor Our Pueblo Existence (H.O.P.E.)
Espanola, NM

Janet Greenwald
Co-coordinator
Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping (CARD)
Albuquerque, NM

Joni Arends, Executive Director
Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety
Santa Fe, NM

Lesley Weinstock, Co-coordinator
Agua es Vida Action Team (AVAT)
Albuquerque, NM

Jay Coghlan, Executive Director
Nuclear Watch New Mexico
Santa Fe, NM

Greg Mello
Los Alamos Study Group
Albuquerque, NM

Alice Andrews
Mothers & Others United to Shut Down Indian Point
New Paltz, NY
Barbara Warren  
Executive Director  
Citizens' Environmental Coalition  
Albany, NY  

Taffy Williams  
New York Whale and Dolphin Action League  
Yonkers, NY  

Peter Maniscalco  
Coordinator  
Renew Community Earth  
Manorville NY  

Judy Braiman  
Empire State Consumer Project  
Rochester, NY  

Connie Hogarth  
Hogarth Center for Social Action  
Manhattanville College  
Purchase, NY  

Goshen Green Farms  
Goshen, NY  

Public Health and Sustainable Energy  
Spring Valley, NY  

Arnold Gore  
Consumers Health Freedom Coalition  
New York, NY  

Sister Jeanne Clark OP, Coordinator  
Pax Christi Long Island  
Amityville, NY  

JK Canepa  
Co-Founding Member  
New York Climate Action Group  
New York, NY  

Charlotte Koons  
Codepink LI Women for Peace  
Huntington, NY  

Ursula Rozum, staff organizer  
Syracuse Peace Council  
Syracuse, NY  

Frederick S. Bays, CEO  
Fred's Farms  
Trupsburg, NY  

Manna Jo Greene, Environmental Director  
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.  
Beacon, NY  

Jim Warren, Executive Director  
NC WARN  
Waste Awareness & Reduction Network  
Durham, NC  

Hope Taylor, MSPH, Exec Director  
Clean Water for NC  
Durham, NC  

Wells Eddleman  
Staff Scientist  
NC Citizens Research Group  
Durham NC  

Tom Bates, CSI, CDT President  
Robert Bates Company  
Greensboro, NC  

Mali Lightfoot  
Director of Development  
Helen Caldicott Foundation/NuclearFreePlanet.org  
Asheville, NC  

James Carroll  
Treasurer/Chair of Water Quality Team  
Toe River Valley Watch  
Penland, NC  

Ned Ryan Doyle, Co-Director  
Our Southern Community Center  
Hendersonville, NC  

Chris Trepal, Executive Director  
Earth Day Coalition  
Cleveland, OH  

Patricia A. Marida, chair  
Ohio Sierra Club Nuclear Issues Committee  
Columbus, OH  

Linda Musmeci Kimball  
Oxford Citizens for Peace & Justice  
Oxford, OH  

Lisa Crawford, President  
Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety & Health, Inc. (FRESH)  
Harrison, OH
Marcus Atkinson  
Nuclear Free Future Campaign Coordinator  
Footprints for Peace  
Cincinnati, OH

Connie Kline, Director  
Ohio CARE - Citizens Against a Radioactive Environment  
Willoughby Hills, OH

Bob D. Rounsavell  
President  
Carrie Dickerson Foundation  
Tulsa, OK

B. Geary  
Citizens Action for Safe Energy  
Tulsa, OK

Nina Bell, J.D., Executive Director  
Northwest Environmental Advocates  
Portland, OR

Lloyd K. Marbet  
Executive Director  
Oregon Conservancy Foundation  
Boring, OR

Lynn Sims  
Don't Waste Oregon  
Portland, OR

Jill Mackie  
Ashland, Oregon, Branch of Women's International League for Peace & Freedom  
Ashland, OR

Chuck Johnson, Director  
Center for Energy Research  
Portland, OR

Karen Barton, Coordinator  
Bryn Mawr Peace Coalition  
Bryn Mawr, PA

Holly Angelique  
Academies for a Nuclear Free Future (ANUFF!)  
Middletown, PA

Ernest Fuller  
Concerned Citizens for SNEC Safety  
Six Mile Run, PA

Dr. Titus North  
Executive Director  
Citizen Power  
Pittsburgh, PA

Nancy Tate & Robert Daniels II, coordinators  
Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern  
LEPOCO Peace Center  
Bethlehem, PA

Charmaine White Face, Coordinator  
Defenders of the Black Hills  
Rapid City, SD

Kathleen Ferris, Co-Founder  
Citizens to End Nuclear Dumping in TN (ENDIT)  
Murfreesboro, TN

Irucka Embry, E.I.T.  
Principal  
EcoC2S (EcoCsquaredS)  
Nashville, TN

Sandra Kurtz  
Co-Founder  
Bellefonte Efficiency & Sustainability Team  
Chattanooga, TN

Faith Young  
Concerned Citizens of Tennessee  
Dixon Springs, TN

David Harper  
Citizens for Smart Choices  
Hartsville, TN

Margaret Day, Chairperson  
Alamo Group Sierra Club  
San Antonio, TX

Jane Leatherman Van Praag  
President  
Wilco Justice Alliance  
Williamson County, TX

Cletus Stein  
President of the Board  
The Peace Farm  
Amarillo TX

Cynthia Weehler  
Energía Mia  
San Antonio, TX
Brian Moench, MD
President
Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
Salt Lake City, UT

Steve Erickson, Director
Citizens Education Project
Salt Lake City, UT

Sarah M. Fields
Program Director
Uranium Watch
Moab, UT

Brian Tokar, Director
Institute for Social Ecology
Plainfield, VT

Debra Stoleroff
Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance
Montpelier, VT

Elizabeth Champagne
North Country Coalition for Justice and Peace
St. Johnsbury, VT

Olga Kolotushkina
Roanoke River Basin Association
Danville, VA

Gerry Pollet, JD;
Executive Director,
Heart of America Northwest
Seattle, WA

Pat Rasmussen, Coordinator
World Temperate Rainforest Network
Olympia, WA

Chris Herman
Interim President and Board Chair
Edmonds Community Solar Cooperative
Edmonds, WA

Pat Herbert
Hanford Action League
Vashon, WA

Chris Herman
Owner
Winter Sun Design
Edmonds, WA

Charlie Higley
Executive Director
Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin
Madison, WI

Al Gedicks, Executive Secretary
Wisconsin Resources Protection Council
Tomahawk, WI

Marcia Halligan
Kickapoo Peace Circle
Viroqua, WI

Susan Michetti
Chairperson
Citizens of Mt Horeb Against Water Fluoridation
Mt Horeb, WI

Dante A Renzoni
Owner
Silent Glide Canoe and Kayak Shop LLC
Medford, WI

Corey E. Olsen, Owner/Activist
CEO Pipe Organs/Golden Ponds Farm
Delafield, WI

Peter Anderson, President
RECYCLEWORLDS CONSULTING
Madison, WI