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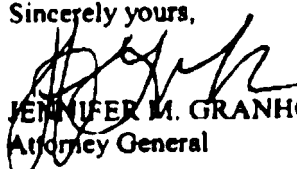
Dear Mr. Lewis:

Thank you for your letter about the Canadian utility, Bruce Power, whose nuclear waste is stored on Lake Huron. I share your concern that spent nuclear fuel should not be stored on the shores of the Great Lakes, whether in the United States or Canada. While there are no quick fixes for a problem that has been so long in the making, I believe that ultimately Canada will be persuaded that storing spent nuclear fuel along the shores of this geological treasure containing 20% of the world's fresh water cannot continue. The difficulty we are having in this country, however, finding safe and reliable storage for this very dangerous material underscores the difficulty facing Michigan and other concerned states in persuading Canada to seek long-term safer disposal options for its nuclear waste. We must attempt to persuade Canada to act responsibly while at the same time continuing to pursue safe long-term disposal for nuclear waste stored on the U.S. shores of the Great Lakes.

As you may know, while the U.S. Congress directed the federal Department of Energy (DOE) to find a repository for nuclear waste by 1998, DOE did not meet that directive, so Michigan and other states and affected utilities brought suit to enforce DOE's obligations. The selection of Yucca Mountain as the national repository for nuclear waste has not been finalized and several citizens' groups are challenging the safety of the site and the safety of transporting the accumulated nuclear waste to that site. Estimates are that even if all approvals are obtained and plans finalized as quickly as possible for a federal repository at Yucca Mountain, nuclear waste will remain stored on Lake Michigan shores for the next decade.

Thank you again for writing. I encourage you to continue to make your concerns known, perhaps by contacting your federal and state legislators. It is important that all avenues are explored to help our country and Canada solve one of our most challenging environmental problems.

Sincerely yours,


JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
Attorney General