

July 25, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania
Washington, DC 20500



re: energy policies

Dear President Obama,

We want to ask you to reconsider your energy policies. Your appointment of Dr. Stephen Chu, of the Argonne Laboratory, to the position of Secretary of Energy has heavily weighted your energy policies in favor of nuclear power – at a time when energy efficiency is proven to create more jobs, cost less and eliminate demand and when the technology for solar, wind, geothermal and tidal power is becoming cheaper and available. We cannot understand how a man of your intelligence, especially after the catastrophe of Fukushima, can allow the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to grant permits for building new nuclear reactors and to extend the licenses of our dangerously aged reactors, which continue to produce high level radioactive waste with no adequate storage solution. We would like to think you were not bought by Exelon Corporation, but that you have simply not taken the time to study the issue of nuclear power and are depending upon industry experts to guide you through these complex scientific issues. We think they have led you down a path that threatens the health and safety of the American people, and indeed, of the whole world.

Do you realize that nuclear power plants routinely emit radiation? . . . that these emissions go into the air, water and soil, and consequently into the food chain? . . . that if this radiation is inhaled or ingested through food or water, the person or animal is placed at grave risk for cancer? . . . that if our bodies also contain toxic chemicals and are exposed to radiation, the effect is synergistic? . . . that radiation is cumulative in the body and that is one reason older people are prone to cancer? . . . that unborn and young children are among the most vulnerable to birth defects, cancers and leukemia from radiation poisoning? . . . that when living creatures are exposed to radiation, their damaged DNA can cause mutations that could forever change the evolution of the entire human race? I'll bet that Mr. Nuclear Scientist Chu hasn't told you these things, but physicians like Dr. Helen Caldicott (*Nuclear Power is Not the Answer*) and Dr. John Gofman (*Poisoned Power*) told the world so years ago and subsequent studies have supported their findings. You should keep their books on your bedside table, along with two books which show a healthier path, both environmentally and financially, Dr. Arjun Makhijani (*Carbon Free Nuclear Free*) and S. David Freeman (*Winning Our Energy Independence*).

Already, [tens of thousands](#) of United States DOE workers are dead or dying from radiation exposures (see [Radioactive Poison](#)). In the event of a Fukushima-like disaster in this country, millions of people could die slow and painful deaths. Just within the last year or two, U.S. reactors have been threatened by earthquakes, floods, and tornadoes (see [Radioactive Dangers](#)), yet your administration persists down this suicidal course to more nuclear reactors. Please think about the consequences and change this direction. Please lead us into a sustainable future (see [Clean Energy](#)). Please replace Secretary Chu, and put the government's efforts and money into efficiency and truly clean and renewable sources of energy—sun, wind, geothermal and water.

Sincerely,
Gretel Johnston, co-founder
Mothers Against Tennessee River Radiation

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