



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

Stephen Morris
*Senate President
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March 9, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2803

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1702

Dear Speaker Boehner, Representative Pelosi, Senator Reid and Senator McConnell:

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), we urge Congress to move expeditiously to review and act on recommendations made by the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future (BRC) in its final report issued on January 26, 2012. This report represents an important opportunity to find a permanent, safe and secure solution to America's nuclear waste problem.

Through the testimony of state legislators, NCSL has consistently encouraged the BRC to recognize the critical role of states in managing the waste from the Cold War arms race and nuclear energy plants. NCSL applauds the BRC for recognizing the importance of states in advancing this critical conversation and including in its report a proposal for states, tribes and local governments to be included in all storage and disposal decisions on nuclear waste and spent fuel.

The BRC final report also incorporates other recommendation made by NCSL to the BRC. It proposes the development of an interim storage facility where nuclear waste, which is currently stored in numerous power plants and federal facilities throughout the country, can be stored temporarily until a permanent underground disposal facility is built. It calls for Congress to use the Nuclear Waste Fund for its intended purpose of funding the management of spent nuclear fuel and not to offset unrelated spending in the federal budget. And the report recognizes that state, tribal

and local governments need federal support to continue the safe transportation of nuclear waste throughout the country.

NCSL has a long history of working on issues related to nuclear waste management and welcomes the opportunity to work with Congress to continue to advance the conversation forward and build on the recommendations of the BRC final report.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Stephen R. Morris and Sally Y. Jameson in black ink.

Senator Stephen R. Morris
Senate President, Kansas
President, NCSL

Delegate Sally Young Jameson
Maryland House of Delegates
Chair, NCSL Nuclear Legislative Workgroup

CC: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate