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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2210

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HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
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TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
RAILROADS, PIPELINES,
AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
WATER RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT

February 21, 2014

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

I am writing to express my concerns on Ontario Power Generation's proposed Deep Geological Repository for low and intermediate level nuclear waste off the shore of Lake Huron in Kincardine in the province of Ontario, Canada.

The 10th Congressional District runs along Lake Huron, the St. Clair River, and Lake St. Clair. Preserving and protecting the Great Lakes is of the utmost importance to me, my constituents, as well as the millions of people depending on this precious resource for fisheries, tourism, drinking water and other industrial and economic uses. There are serious concerns with this proposal because of the potentially dangerous and environmentally risky decision for long-term storage of nuclear waste within such close proximity to the Great Lakes.

Current Michigan law prohibits the disposal and storage of radioactive waste in a manner that would create a hazard to the public health, safety or welfare. I believe the Canadian government should consult with neighboring jurisdictions before venturing on such a delicate endeavor. As Canada has always been a good neighbor not only to the United States but also to the state of Michigan, I urge you to engage the International Joint Commission on this important topic and also encourage the Canadian government to thoroughly review and reassess placing a nuclear waste dump near the shores of Lake Huron.

Sincerely,

Candice S. Miller

Candice S. Miller
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Gina McCarthy, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ms. Debra Myles, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Ms. Kelly McGee, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
Mr. Gordon Walker, Acting Chair, Canadian Section, International Joint Commission
Ms. Lana Pollock, Chair, U.S. Section, International Joint Commission

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

MAR 19 2014

Dear Ms. Miller:

Thank you for your February 21 letter regarding Ontario Power Generation's proposal for a deep underground repository for low-level and intermediate-level radioactive waste in Kincardine, Ontario.

The U.S. government is keenly interested in protecting the Great Lakes and the enormous economic, environmental, and quality-of-life benefits they bring to millions of U.S. and Canadian citizens.

The Department of State has consulted with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) on the proposed repository. We understand that members of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission have been in communication with their Canadian counterparts on this topic. We appreciate your suggestion that we engage the International Joint Commission (IJC). The Department will review any possible role for the IJC and determine next steps.

Ontario Power Generation is responding to a series of questions from the Joint Review Panel (comprised of the CEAA and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission) by April 4. Once the Panel decides that it has obtained all of the information it requires, the record will be closed. Within 90 days of the close of the public record, the Panel will submit an environmental assessment report to the Canadian federal Minister of the Environment. Within 120 days of that submission, the minister must make a decision on the assessment. If the minister decides the project may proceed the Panel could then issue a license to prepare a site and construct the repository. A separate application would have to be made to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission for a license to operate the facility.

The Honorable
Candice Miller,
House of Representatives.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,

Julia Frifield
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs