

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 7, 2017

Secretary Rex Tillerson
United States Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson:

For some time, a bipartisan coalition of Members of Congress from the states bordering the Great Lakes have expressed our strong concerns to a proposal by Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to construct a deep geologic repository for nuclear waste (DGR) less than one mile from Lake Huron in Kincardine, Ontario.

Nearly one tenth of the U.S. population lives in the Great Lakes basin, and more than 35 million people, with approximately 24 million of them being Americans, rely on the Great Lakes for drinking water, jobs, and their way of life. In fact, the Great Lakes account for more than 20 percent of the world's freshwater supply. Given the extraordinary importance of this precious resource, we, along with many of our colleagues, have repeatedly emphasized our opposition to permanently burying nuclear waste within the Great Lakes basin.

Shortly after President Trump's election, OPG released a study on potential alternate locations for the DGR. In that report, OPG recognized that there are other viable locations to store nuclear waste in Ontario that would be technically feasible, and we have asked the Canadian government to require OPG to select a site that is outside the Great Lakes basin.

Despite OPG's initial report that contained false claims based on social media and internet activity to demonstrate "little interest among the general public" for the proposed DGR in Kincardine, 186 local, county, and state governments representing 23 million constituents in both the United States and Canada have passed resolutions explicitly opposing OPG's proposal.

Last week, in response to questions raised by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, OPG released a 145 page document answering 23 questions to support its DGR proposal for the Bruce Power Complex in Kincardine. With the release of this report, it is our strong belief that OPG has doubled down on the Bruce Power Complex proposal for two inconvenient facts for the company: that they believe an alternative site would be more expensive and take longer to construct.

We cannot let cost be the sole driving factor in this critical decision, as storing nuclear waste in the Great Lakes basin bears far too great a risk that would be fundamentally devastating to an entire region. Any contamination whatsoever would pose disastrous repercussions as all of the

lakes are connected to one another, and no barrier, man-made or natural, would be able to stop a potential catastrophe of epic proportions.

We write to urge you to do everything in your power – through both diplomatic and legal channels – to protect our Great Lakes and to convince the Canadian government to require OPG to select an alternative site that will not place the health, safety, and economic security of Americans at risk.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We stand ready to partner with you in any way can to make sure the Great Lakes are preserved for generations of Americans to come.

Sincerely,

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

David Joyce
Member of Congress

Dan Kildee
Member of Congress

Rick Nolan
Member of Congress

Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

David Trott
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Sean Duffy
Member of Congress

John Moolenaar
Member of Congress

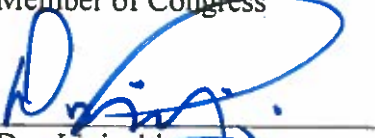
Jim Renacci
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Mike Bishop
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress



Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



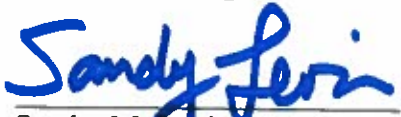
Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



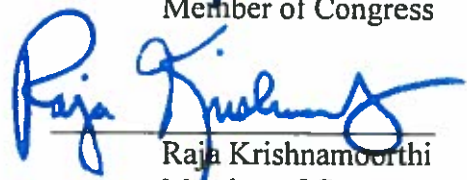
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



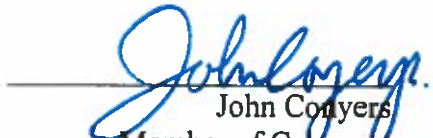
Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



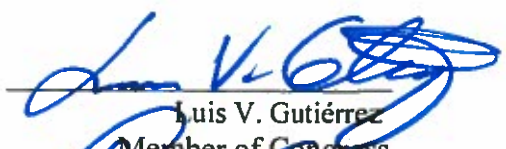
Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



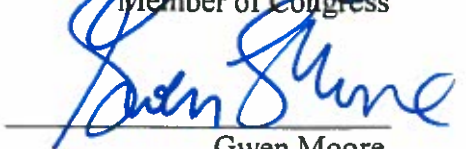
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



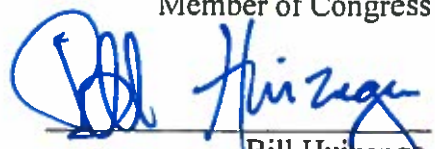
John Conyers
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress