



**TRIBAL
CAUCUS**

June 14, 2011

Ms. Anderson,

On behalf of the states and tribes that participate in the DOE National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF), we thank you for your attendance and keynote presentation at the recent annual meeting in Denver. We very much appreciated your remarks and your recognition of the pivotal role that states and tribes play in ensuring success towards our mutual goals of safe and uneventful transportation of radioactive materials and waste throughout the U.S. As you heard in the question and answer session after your remarks, there is strong support for DOE-EM's maintenance of the NTSF as a way to engage transportation stakeholders in shipment-related planning and policy discussions.

The NTSF is a critical interface between state, tribal, and federal officials, and it is important that it is championed throughout DOE. The NTSF is the result of a compromise reached in 2008 by DOE-EM, the former Office of Civilian and Radioactive Waste Management, and the state regional groups as a way to maintain a national dialogue on transportation while reducing the DOE travel costs and staff time associated with attending multiple regional stakeholder events throughout the year. The NTSF annual meeting has been successful in reducing federal travel costs while at the same time increasing state and tribal engagement in shipment planning and execution. Unfortunately, this year's annual meeting suffered as a result of some DOE programs not participating in this unique opportunity to reach out to transportation stakeholders nationwide.

Much has been made of the success of high-visibility DOE shipment programs, such as prior shipments of cesium as well as the ongoing shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and spent fuel shipments conducted by the Foreign Research Reactor Program. As governors, legislators, and the Secretary of Energy have all recognized, a large part of this success can be attributed to the cooperative working relationship that DOE has developed over the years. Efforts by the states, tribes, DOE, and other federal partners have resulted in a robust network of state and tribal officials, including emergency responders and law enforcement personnel. Working as partners in shipment planning, this network has created awareness and acceptance of the transportation of radioactive materials in our communities and fostered educational efforts that ensure our shared safety and security. It is important that we continue to maintain these strong working relationships for ongoing and future DOE shipping campaigns.

To formalize DOE's commitment to the NTSF, we request that DOE program participation in the NTSF be incorporated into the pending DOE transportation order, which we understand will take the place of the current DOE Radioactive Material Transportation Practices Manual. The Manual is actually a product of

the predecessor to the NTSF (the Transportation External Coordination Working Group or TEC) and demonstrates the significant accomplishments DOE can make by working cooperatively with state and tribal officials as well as other stakeholders.

While we realize that tight budgets are requiring all of us to make difficult choices, we strongly encourage DOE's continued commitment to and participation in the NTSF. The lack of certainty surrounding DOE-EM's support and funding for the NTSF jeopardizes the future of the Forum and the relationship with one of EM's most critical partners. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the DOE to ensure safe and secure shipments of radioactive material throughout the nation. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Lisa Janairo at the Council of State Governments (ljanairo@csg.org or 920-458-5910).

Sincerely,



Anne deLain Clark
State of New Mexico and Co-chair Western Governors' Association Transportation Technical Advisory Group



Craig Halverson
State of Idaho and Co-chair Western Governors' Association Transportation Technical Advisory Group



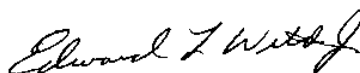
Paul Schmidt
State of Wisconsin and Co-chair of The Council of State Governments Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee



Tim Runyon
State of Illinois and Co-chair of The Council of State Governments Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee



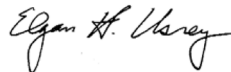
John Giarrusso
State of Massachusetts and Co-chair of The Council of State Governments Northeast High-Level Radioactive Waste Transportation Task Force



Edward Wilds
State of Connecticut and Chair Emeritus of The Council of State Governments Northeast High-Level Radioactive Waste Transportation Task Force



Sandra Threatt
State of South Carolina and Chair of the Southern States Energy Board Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee



Elgan Usrey
State of Tennessee and Chair of the Southern States Energy Board Transuranic Waste Transportation Working Group



Neil Weber
Pueblo de San Ildefonso and Member of the Tribal Caucus

Cc: Ines Triay: Assistant Secretary, DOE Office of Environmental Management
Steve O'Connor: Director of the Office of Packaging and Transportation, DOE Office of Environmental Management
Ella McNeil: Manager of the Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program, DOE Office of Environmental Management
JR Stroble: Director National TRU Program, DOE Carlsbad Field Office
Bill Mackie: Manager of Institutional Affairs, DOE Carlsbad Field Office

