

DOCKETED

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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October 23, 2015

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0504

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The Energy Commission supports your efforts to establish a Nuclear Waste Administration, a consent-based siting process for repositories and storage facilities, and a pilot program for interim spent fuel storage as identified in the Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2015. This bill would address an urgent need and improve the nation's strategy for managing nuclear waste resulting from nuclear electricity generation throughout the country.

Establishing a Nuclear Waste Administration with the single purpose of addressing nuclear waste would provide focus to the federal effort to address this issue. A consent-based approach would provide a path forward and boost public confidence for the federal effort to find permanent storage solutions. Establishing a pilot program for interim storage of nuclear waste would also provide a consent-based process for siting interim storage facilities without waiting until a permanent repository is established.

In conclusion, the Energy Commission sees the Nuclear Waste Administration Act as a path forward for safe, permanent nuclear waste storage. The Commission will continue to represent California's interests in federal nuclear waste management program activities to ensure that California's interests are protected. Seismicity issues for spent fuel storage, potential groundwater impacts from spent fuel, transportation of spent fuel, and the long-term security and maintenance of independent spent fuel storage installations are of particular importance to California. We look forward to our continued collaboration and thank you for prioritizing nuclear safety and long-term nuclear waste storage.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Weisenmiller in blue ink.

ROBERT B. WEISENMILLER
Chair

Handwritten signature of J. Andrew McAllister in blue ink.

J. ANDREW McALLISTER
Commissioner