

DANIEL T. KILDEE

5TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

**COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS AND
GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE**

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC WHIP



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

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July 29, 2014

Ambassador Gary Doer
Embassy of Canada in Washington, D.C.
501 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C., 20001-2111

Dear Ambassador Doer:

Please find enclosed a letter to the Honorable John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs. I would appreciate if you could ensure that this reaches the Minister.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Kildee", written over a horizontal line.

Dan Kildee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

DANIEL T. KILDEE
5TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

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July 29, 2014

Honorable John Baird
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0G2
Canada

Dear Minister Baird:

I am writing to you regarding Ontario Power Generation's proposed permanent nuclear waste storage facility in Kincardine, Ontario. This site would be less than a mile from the Great Lakes, which contain 21 percent of the world's fresh surface water, and it would hold nuclear material that could remain radioactive for the next 10,000 years. I, along with five other members of Congress, have expressed concern with this potential site because of its proximity to one of our greatest shared natural resources, the Great Lakes. Since then, my office has met with officials from the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. and from Ontario Power Generation to gain additional information on the proposed permanent nuclear waste site. Both the U.S. and Canada have a long history of working together to protect our water resources and I hope we can continue to do so in the future.

During the 1980's, the U.S. explored several potential domestic sites to permanently store nuclear waste, including in some states that share a border with Canada or the Great Lakes. At the time, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney raised concerns with President Ronald Reagan regarding potential permanent nuclear waste sites in shared water basins. Furthermore, then Minister for External Affairs Joe Clark expressed significant opposition on behalf of the Canadian government to many of the proposed permanent nuclear waste sites in America because of their potential impact on the shared environment and water resources. In fact, he requested that no permanent nuclear waste site be located within 25 miles of the border.

Ultimately, the U.S. decided not to pursue the contentious sites. In response, on January 16, 1986, Minister Clark released a public statement praising the decision and also opposing "any development that could present a transboundary threat to the welfare of Canadians or the integrity of the Canadian environment."

Given the Canadian government's past opposition to permanent U.S. nuclear waste repositories within our shared water basins, additional clarification from you would be helpful as Canada pursues its own permanent storage site in Ontario.

- What is the Canadian government's position on permanent nuclear waste sites that could threaten shared U.S. and Canadian natural resources, such as the Great Lakes?
- What other locations have the Canadian government explored for this proposed permanent nuclear waste facility?
- Before the Canadian government grants final approval to any permanent nuclear waste sites within shared water basins, will it seek the expressed consent of the U.S. government?

The U.S. and Canada enjoy an enduring friendship, and I am confident we can continue to work together to ensure the continued preservation of the Great Lakes and our shared water basin for future generations.

Sincerely,



Dan Kildee

MEMBER OF CONGRESS