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December 22, 2015

The Honorable Ernest Moniz
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz,

On November 30th, I received the Department of Energy's supplement analysis regarding the transportation of highly enriched uranium target residue material from Chalk River Laboratories in Ontario, Canada to the Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS) in Aiken, South Carolina.

Unfortunately, the report understates potential environmental impacts and improperly concludes that a supplemental or new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required in order for these dangerous shipments to proceed.

Foregoing a new EIS would preempt Congressional oversight of this action. On October 20, 2015, the House of Representatives passed HR 3350 by a vote of 416-0, requiring the Department of Homeland Security to perform a terrorism threat assessment regarding the transportation of chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological materials through the United States.

As the legislative history shows, this bill was approved by the House Committee on Homeland Security after I raised concerns with respect to the transportation of this highly radioactive material through downtown Buffalo and in close proximity to the Great Lakes.

In light of these details, I respectfully ask that the Department refrain from moving forward with these shipments until the United States Senate has reviewed, and decided whether to take action on HR 3350. And I respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss the concern and, frankly the bewilderment, in my community over the selection of this route for the transport of highly radioactive waste.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress