

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 8, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

We write to urgently request you include robust policies that provide assistance for communities housing stranded nuclear waste in the next COVID-19 stimulus package. Specifically, we ask that you include the STRANDED Act, a bipartisan and bicameral piece of legislation that would deliver assistance to these communities without delay. These communities have become de facto interim storage sites as Congress and the Nation have failed to deliver a permanent solution for our Nation's nuclear waste.

We understand that, under your leadership, Congress and the Administration are working to unite behind a plan that will bring economic security to all Americans in this unprecedented moment. We applaud the bipartisan action taken to date by Congress, and believe a critical part of our ongoing response must include providing financial resources directly to State and Local Governments. Nuclear-affected communities, in particular, have already shouldered the significant financial burden of safely storing our nuclear waste, some for decades. These communities are now also responsible for ensuring that millions of their residents are able to safely shelter in place. They do so while also operating without expected tax revenues and incurring increased emergency costs related to COVID-19. Communities like Zion, Illinois have long faced extraordinary financial hardship from the burden of storing spent nuclear waste – and now the increased strain from the coronavirus is pushing these communities to the brink.

The STRANDED Act will help make these communities closer to whole by establishing a noncompetitive grant program to provide financial assistance to offset the significant economic and social impacts of stranded nuclear waste in affected communities. This money would go to local governments at a rate of \$15 for each kilogram of spent nuclear fuel stored in the affected community, consistent with the rate for impact assistance established under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. Additionally, the STRANDED Act establishes a Federal task force to identify existing public and private resources and funding that could benefit affected

communities and a competition to award prizes to proposals for affected communities to carry out alternatives to nuclear facilities, generating sites and waste sites.

We must provide additional financial support to state and municipal governments and ensure that funding is flexible to meet their diverse needs. Communities across the Nation that have been hit hard by the economic impacts of stranded nuclear waste are now being dealt another blow caused by the COVID-19 crisis. By including the STRANDED Act in the next stimulus package, Congress will help secure the future and prosperity of these communities and enable them to provide the critical government services Americans are relying on right now.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Bradley S. Schneider
United States Representative