



CONGRESSMAN **PAUL
MITCHELL**
Representing Michigan's 10th District

For Immediate Release | February 1, 2017

Contact: Ann Tumolo 202-577-9481

Mitchell Leads House Letter Asking Administration to Urge Canada to Halt Nuclear Waste Project

Washington, D.C. – Representative Paul Mitchell (MI-10) sent a bipartisan letter with twelve of his House colleagues asking the Trump administration to urge Canada to halt the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) proposal to store nuclear waste near Lake Huron. Representative Mitchell issued the following statement after releasing the letter:

“The Great Lakes make up one fifth of the world’s fresh surface-water supply and are a source of drinking water for 40 million people. This plan poses a danger to a crucial water source and a failure at the site would disrupt both Michigan and Canadian tourism and commerce.

I ask the Trump administration to urge our Canadian neighbors to identify a more suitable location outside of the Great Lakes basin to protect the citizens and the environment of both nations.”

The full text of the letter can be found [here](#).

A total of thirteen members of the U.S. House of Representatives, including Representative Mitchell, signed onto the bipartisan letter that was sent to President Trump:

Rep. **Jack Bergman** (MI-1), Rep. **Mike Bishop** (MI-8) Rep. **Debbie Dingell** (MI-12), Rep. **Sean Duffy**(WI-7), Rep. **Bill Huizenga** (MI-2), Rep. **David Joyce** (OH-14), Rep. **Dan Kildee** (MI-5), Rep. **Sandy Levin** (MI- 9), Rep. **Betty McCollum** (MN-4), Rep. **Rick Nolan** (MN-8), Rep. **Louise Slaughter** (NY-25), Rep. **Dave Trott** (MI-11).

BACKGROUND

OPG, a Canadian energy company has proposed to build a nuclear waste facility in Kincardine, Ontario. OPG’s current proposal is to permanently store low and intermediate level radioactive waste 2,000 feet underground the shore of Lake Huron. Michigan’s 10th Congressional District,

represented by Congressman Mitchell, relies on Lake Huron as a critical water source and tourist attraction.

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2210

January 31, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you establish your Administration's priorities and operations, we would like to bring to your attention Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) proposed permanent nuclear waste storage facility in Kincardine, Ontario, Canada. We ask you to encourage your counterparts in the Canadian government to deny OPG's proposed site and have the company explore other options.

As you know, the Great Lakes are one of our country's greatest resources. It is the world's largest network of freshwater lakes, and millions of Americans and Canadians depend on them for drinking water, recreation, and commerce. Furthermore, the natural beauty of the lakes is undeniable. It is in our national interest to protect these lakes for generations to come.

Nuclear power, while an important source of electricity, requires safe disposal and storage of the resultant nuclear waste. OPG's current proposal is to permanently store low and intermediate level radioactive waste 2,000 feet underground on the shore of Lake Huron. Given the close proximity of the Great Lakes, and the vast amounts of land available for alternate sites, OPG's proposal is an unnecessary risk.

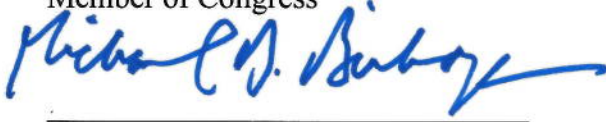
In spite of these concerns, according to a recent report from OPG, "there is little interest among the general public regarding the [deep geologic repository] project." We emphasize that is not the case, and we encourage you convey that sentiment to the Canadian government.

Thank you for considering our request and taking into account the concerns of our constituents. We look forward to working with you to resolve this issue.

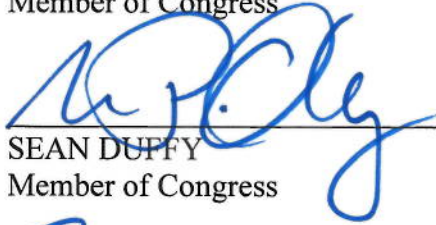
Sincerely,



PAUL MITCHELL
Member of Congress



MIKE BISHOP
Member of Congress



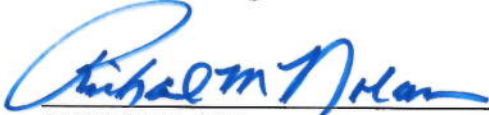
SEAN DUFFY
Member of Congress



DAVID P. JOYCE
Member of Congress



SANDER M. LEVIN
Member of Congress



RICK NOLAN
Member of Congress



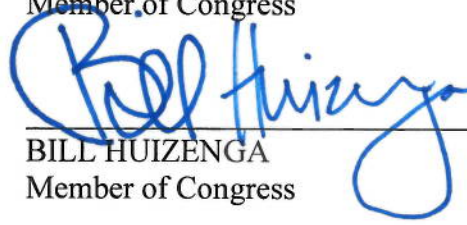
DAVE TROTT
Member of Congress



JACK BERGMAN
Member of Congress



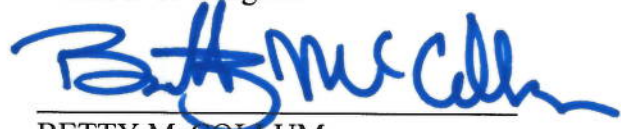
DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress



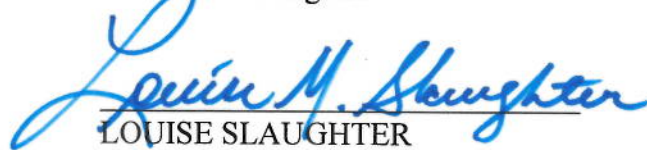
BILL HUIZENGA
Member of Congress



DAN KILDEE
Member of Congress



BETTY McCOLLUM
Member of Congress



LOUISE SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress