Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 8, 2011

The Honorable Greg Jaczko, Chairman
The Honorable Kristine L. Svinicki, Commissioner
The Honorable William D. Magwood, IV, Commissioner
The Honorable George Apostolakis, Commissioner
The Honorable William C. Ostendorff, Commissioner
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Jaczko and Commissioners Svinicki, Magwood, Apostolakis and Ostendorff:

We write to urge you to quickly move to adopt the recommendations of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Near Term Task Force reviewing NRC processes and regulations in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear meltdowns. We believe that doing so is vital to ensuring the safety of nuclear reactors in this country.

The NRC's Near-Term Task Force was comprised of 6 senior NRC officials[1], who together have more than 135 years of nuclear regulatory expertise. Last month, the Task Force transmitted its report to the Commission, and presented a specific set of recommendations for near-term Orders, rulemakings that should be initiated, and items that should be further studied in order to determine the best course of action in response to the Fukushima melt-downs. These include commonsense measures such as:

- requirements to upgrade nuclear reactor protections for severe events (and combinations of events) such as earthquakes, tsunamis, fires or floods;
- requirements to strengthen protections against the sort of catastrophic loss of electricity that caused the meltdowns in Japan, including a requirement for reactor cores and spent nuclear fuel to be cooled for up to 72 hours following such a blackout;
- requirements for technologies to prevent or mitigate against the sort of hydrogen explosions that occurred in Japan;
- requirements to strengthen the currently voluntary emergency mitigation procedures for nuclear crises; and
- increased NRC oversight and enforcement of these regulations.

We understand that Chairman Jaczko has issued a proposal for how the Commission should consider these recommendations. This proposal includes meetings with external stakeholders, three full Commission meetings, and input from additional NRC staff and the NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. He also proposed that the Commission determine, one way or the other, how it planned to proceed on each

[1] http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1109/ML110910479.pdf

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

of the Task Force's recommendations by October 21 – 90 days after the publication of the report that itself took 90 days to prepare. We support the Chairman's proposal for the timeframe and process for consideration of these recommendations, and additionally urge you to support their adoption.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please have your staff contact Michal Freedhoff (Rep. Markey, 225-2836), Jonathan Levenshus (Rep. Capps, 225-3601), or Dana Miller (Rep. Lowey, 225-6506).

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey

Lois Capps

Nita M. Lowey

Maurice Hinchey

Raúl M. Grijalva

Dennis J. Kucinich

Lynn Woolsey

Jim Moran

Charles Rangel

Mazie K. Hirono

Bob Filner

Louise Slaughter

John Tierney

Barney Frank

Emanuel Cleaver

Jan Schakowsky

Fortney Pete Stark

James McGovern

David Price

Eliot L. Engel

John Olver

Jerrold Nadler

Stephen Lynch

Earl Blumenauer