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803 Marine St. #3
Boulder, CO 80302
December 9, 1999Bill Richardson
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Richardson,

1 I am concerned with the proposed plan to ship nuclear waste through Colorado to the Yucca Mountain dump site in Nevada. The citizens of Colorado have already been put at risk due to the transportation of plutonium contaminated waste to the WIPP facility. If this plan goes through it would place Colorado in the nuclear cross hairs, by adding thousands of shipments of high level waste along I-70 to the 28,000 shipments of transuranic waste the DOE is sending on I-25.

2 The health-hazards of radioactive waste are much too great to risk the possibility of a transportation accident. Under the WIPP transportation scenario, the DOE estimated that out of 38,089 truck shipments over a 35-year period, 6 deaths and 48 injuries would occur from 76 transportation accidents. Using the shipment numbers in the DEIS and highway routing studies prepared by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Transportation Research Center, the State of Nevada has developed a preliminary estimate of potential legal-weight truck shipments through Colorado. This study shows that there would be about 35,350 shipments through Colorado and Denver on I-70 over 39 years. Thus, increasing the risk of accidents and harm to people.

3 A further concern of mine has to do with the implications of a transportation accident on the economy of Colorado. If an accident were to occur on I-70 near a ski resort, wouldn't this have a great effect on tourism in Colorado? Downtown Denver businesses could also suffer from an incident of this type. If a spill was to occur and business downtown was halted, wouldn't this have an impact of the economy of Colorado?

These questions have not been adequately addressed in the EIS for WIPP or in the DEIS for Yucca Mountain. I urge you to consider the impact on Colorado's economy being in the nuclear cross hairs. A decision to transport more nuclear waste through Colorado is not safe and will put Colorado's economy at citizens at risk.

Sincerely,

Amanda Kurnos

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cc: Mayor Wellington Webb
Governor Bill Owens
Diana DeGette*R.S.V.P.**Could you send me the final EIS on WIPP?**A. K.*