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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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DAVID V. MARVENTANO, STAFF DIRECTOR

Dear Colleague:

Yesterday, the Energy and Commerce Committee took a significant step in addressing the concerns raised since September 11th about the security of America's nuclear power plants against the threat of a terrorist attack.

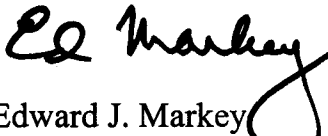
After lengthy negotiations, we offered an amendment to H.R. 2983, the Price-Anderson Reauthorization Act of 2001, that will require the President and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to address nuclear security in an unprecedented fashion. Among other things, our amendment requires:

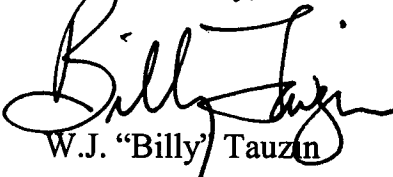
- The President to immediately assess terrorist threats to nuclear security, both in terms of national defense and "inside-the-fence" protections and report to Congress on his findings;
- The President to issue and implement a comprehensive Federal action plan based on any security deficiencies to protect against terrorists or other enemies of the state;
- The NRC to revise its so-called "design basis threat" regulations to bolster security and safeguards at nuclear power plants;
- The NRC to upgrade its regulations relating to the security of radioactive materials being transported around the country; and,
- The NRC to implement and evaluate realistic force-on-force exercises at each nuclear plant to determine whether there are sufficient operational safeguards and security systems in place to defend against design basis threats.

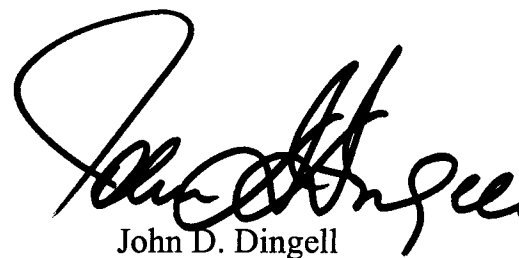
If enacted, we feel strongly that these provisions represent an important step in providing the kind of security that is so critically necessary to ensure that one of our country's most sensitive industries remains safe from terrorist attack.

If you have any questions about our efforts to enhance nuclear security, please contact one of us or have your staff contact Dwight Cates (x5-2927) of the Committee staff, Rick Kessler (x5-3641) of the Committee minority staff, or Jeff Duncan (x5-2836) with Mr. Markey.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey


W.J. "Billy" Tauzin


John D. Dingell