



Senator Feinstein Calls for Hearings on Nuclear Reactor Safety

- Warns of potential for terrorist attacks on college campus research facilities, nuclear plants -

November 18, 2005

Washington, DC – U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) has written to members of the Committee on Environment and Public Works to express her concern about the potential for security breaches at America’s nuclear plants and research reactor facilities. Senator Feinstein asked the committee to conduct oversight hearings into nuclear safety and into what is being done to protect the American people against the possibility of a terrorist attack.

The following is the text of Senator Feinstein’s letter:

November 17, 2005

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman, Committee on Environment
And Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
The Honorable James Jeffords
Ranking Member, Committee on
Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable George Voinovich
Chairman, Subcommittee on Clean Air,
Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
The Honorable Thomas Carper
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Clean Air,
Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Gentlemen:

I am writing to call your attention to an issue of great importance that has the potential to affect the lives of all Americans: the safety and security of our nation’s nuclear research reactors at universities around the country.

As you may already be aware, ABC Primetime News recently aired a report entitled “Loose Nukes” in which ABC News conducted a four-month investigation into possible security breaches at many of the nuclear research reactors operating on 25 college campuses around the country. ABC News found serious security flaws.

I believe that this report brings to light a serious loophole in the security of the nation's nuclear plants. As members of the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with jurisdiction over the issue of nuclear safety, I would encourage you to conduct an oversight hearing to look further into the issue of nuclear safety and ascertain if there is more that Congress needs to be doing to protect Americans from potential terrorist attacks.

I thank you for your attention to this important matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein

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