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May 8, 1997

VIA FACSIMILE

The Honorable Frederico Peña
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to request that you consider withholding the publication of a report funded in part by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on the health and environmental effects of radiation in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. As you may recall, we briefly discussed the issue of radioactive exposure in the Marshall Islands during your recent meeting with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Another letter detailing the status of this situation is forthcoming. However, I wanted to contact you immediately regarding the publication of a special edition of the Health Physics journal. I am informed that this edition will be released as the journal's July issue. I am further informed that the editor of this edition, Dr. Steven Simon, is currently engaged in property and contractual disputes with the Marshallese Government and may not be dispassionate in his research. All of the authors included in this edition draw similar conclusions about the effects of exposure in the Marshall Islands making this an unbalanced account.

Many of the doctors who have worked in the Marshalls and hold contradictory conclusions to the majority of these contributors were not invited to participate in Dr. Simon's publication. Their position should not be overlooked in any report funded by DOE. If the Marshallese Government had been informed about this publication it could have provided the names of additional scientists whose inclusion in the journal could have made it a more well balanced study of this issue.

I respectfully request that you consider withholding the publication of this journal so that you may adequately review these issues. Thank you for your attention and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Robert A Underwood

ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD
Member of Congress

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