

BARBARA BOXER, CALIFORNIA, CHAIRMAN

MAX BAUCUS, MONTANA  
THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE  
FRANK R. LAUTENBERG, NEW JERSEY  
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, MARYLAND  
BERNARD SANDERS, VERMONT  
SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, RHODE ISLAND  
TOM UDALL, NEW MEXICO  
JEFF MERKLEY, OREGON  
KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, NEW YORK

JAMES M. INHOFE, OKLAHOMA  
DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA  
JOHN BARRASSO, WYOMING  
JEFF SESSIONS, ALABAMA  
MIKE CRAPO, IDAHO  
LAMAR ALEXANDER, TENNESSEE  
MIKE JOHANNIS, NEBRASKA  
JOHN BOOZMAN, ARKANSAS

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

BETTINA POIRIER, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR  
RUTH VAN MARK, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

May 8, 2012

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Chairman Boxer,

We, the undersigned members of the Environment and Public Works Committee, respectfully request that you work with us to advance President Obama's re-nomination of Commissioner Kristine Svinicki to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) through the confirmation process in an expedited manner.

Under your leadership, the committee has continued the practice of quickly acting on Presidential nominations. We recognize that you have expressed reservations about Commissioner Svinicki's re-nomination but also know that you share our concern that the public is best served with a fully functioning Commission. As the President's spokesman, Jay Carney, stated recently: "The president believes we need to have an NRC that is functioning effectively, and that is why ... the president will re-nominate Ms. Svinicki, because he doesn't want to have a break in service in June when her current term expires." We agree that Commissioner Svinicki's Senate confirmation process should be concluded as soon as possible, certainly before June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Svinicki's qualifications are stellar. Time and time again, she has proven that she is a qualified, responsible, and fair regulator. Prior to her time with the NRC, she had many years of experience on Capitol Hill, serving as staff of the Armed Services Committee. She is an engineer and civil servant and has drawn praise from both Democrats and Republicans. Her voting record at the NRC demonstrates that she is a sensible and objective policymaker with a strong dedication to safety and her collaboration with her colleagues at the Commission displays an admirable capacity to produce bipartisan results. Commissioner Svinicki's perspective was essential as the Commission finalized its review of the Vogtle and Summer nuclear plants, the first two new nuclear plant licenses in over 30 years.

Commissioner Svinicki's term ends June 30, 2012 and, given the scope of issues before the Commission, a lapse would create an unenviable void in critical nuclear safety knowledge on

the Commission. Five years ago, Commissioner Svinicki was confirmed by this committee, and in the Senate, by unanimous consent – and we understand her re-nomination has wide bi-partisan support.

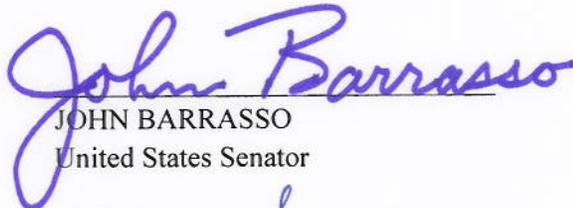
Allowing politics to impede the confirmation of a distinguished member of the Commission is not only undesirable, but it is an evasion of our constitutionally mandated duties. One of the most important obligations each Senator holds is the responsibility to offer advice and provide consent to the President's nominations. Instability at an independent agency responsible for public health and safety increases the perception of regulatory risk.

Now that the President has expressed his support in re-nominating Commissioner Svinicki, we urge you to proceed expeditiously with the confirmation process so that the NRC is able to continue its critically important work.

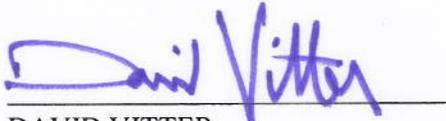
Sincerely,



JAMES M. INHOFE  
United States Senator



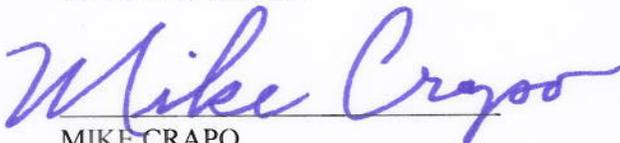
JOHN BARRASSO  
United States Senator



DAVID VITTER  
United States Senator



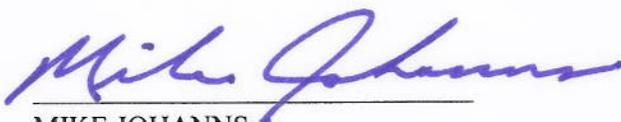
JEFF SESSIONS  
United States Senator



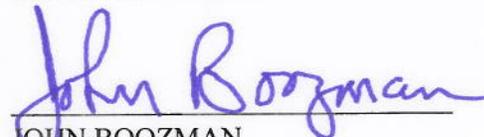
MIKE CRAPO  
United States Senator



LAMAR ALEXANDER  
United States Senator



MIKE JOHANNS  
United States Senator



JOHN BOOZMAN  
United States Senator