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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

BETTINA FORNER, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
ZAK BAIG, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

November 18, 2014

Chairman Barbara Boxer
410 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer,

We are writing to you today to express our concern over your decision to schedule an Environment and Public Works (EPW) business meeting to consider the nomination of Jeffery M. Baran, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), without holding a full EPW committee hearing. While it is true that we recently held a hearing to consider Baran's qualifications on September 11, 2014, the sole purpose of that hearing was to decide whether or not he was qualified to hold this position for the remainder of Former Commissioner William Magwood's term, which will expire on July 30, 2015.

Currently, Baran has been nominated to fulfill the term of NRC Chairman Allison Macfarlane who has recently decided to depart the commission. Chairman Macfarlane's term is set to expire on June 30, 2018. The difference in term lengths are drastic, and many questions remain concerning the qualifications of Baran who only recently visited a nuclear reactor power station for the first time.

As you are well aware, it is imperative to the security and reliability of our nation's energy needs that the members of the NRC be independent, thoughtful, and highly qualified. We have a responsibility on behalf of our constituencies to hold a full committee hearing on Baran to consider if he possesses the capabilities to adequately fulfill his duties in a term of this length.

We view the decision to add Baran to this EPW business meeting as a clear change in committee precedent with long-term ramifications. We look forward to working with you and your staff to schedule this very important hearing.

Sincerely,



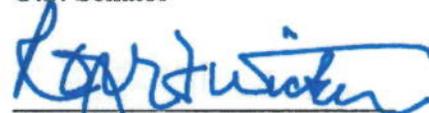
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James Inhofe
U.S. Senator



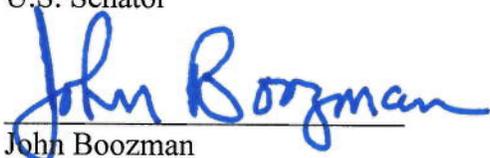
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Roger Wicker
U.S. Senator



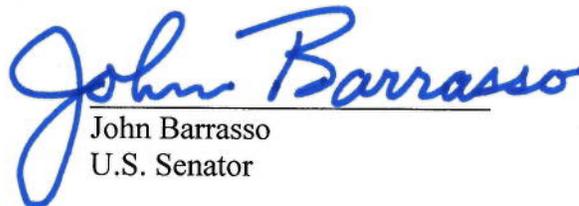
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U.S. Senator



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U.S. Senator



Jeff Sessions
U.S. Senator



John Barrasso
U.S. Senator