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United States Senate

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December 21, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am contacting you to express my strong concerns regarding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) recent decision to approve the sale of American uranium reserves to Atomredmetzoloto (ARMZ).

ARMZ is owned by the Russian government and has sought to acquire a controlling stake in the Canadian owned Uranium One, Inc. This transaction would give the Russian government control over a sizable portion of America's uranium production capacity. Equally alarming, this sale gives ARMZ a significant stake in uranium mines in Kazakhstan.

As you know, Russia has a disturbing record of supporting nuclear programs in countries that are openly hostile to the United States. Russia has directly aided Iran's nuclear development and agreed on October 15, 2010 to help develop Venezuela's nuclear program. This record is at great odds with our own national security.

America's national and energy security must be paramount in any future decisions by your administration. As was communicated to the NRC by my staff prior to the sale, I remain concerned with any attempt to grant an export license to ARMZ which would allow the Russian government to ship U.S. uranium overseas. I would request immediate notification should ARMZ file for a license with the NRC to export U.S. uranium.

In light of this recent NRC decision, developing U.S. uranium is critical. The U.S. imports nearly 90 percent of the uranium used in America's nuclear power plants. Currently more than a dozen license applications are pending with the NRC for uranium mines in Wyoming. These delayed applications, dating back as far as 2007, are unacceptable. I ask that you work with me to ensure an active and strategic domestic uranium industry that lessens our dangerous dependence on foreign imports.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,

John Barrasso

John Barrasso, MD
United States Senator

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