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Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Radiation Control
Room 212, Airport East Building (BLDG #2)
168 North 1950 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4850

Gentlemen:

This letter is to offer adamant support to a company in the west desert, EnergySolutions, located at Clive, Utah. As you can see from my letterhead, I live in Grantsville, Utah the nearest community to EnergySolutions, Dugway, EG&G, MagCorp, Hill Air Force Base Test Range, landfills and other operations located in the west desert. Of all the industries, EnergySolutions is by far the safest and well managed. EnergySolutions is a highly regulated, self reporting company, as you well know, and has a good reputation with the Utah Department of Environmental Quality. My opinion of this company is that if the State of Utah would ignore the detractors, mainly HEAL Utah and competitive companies trying to curtail business in Utah, and come to the conclusion that our state is blessed with a natural geological phenomenon located in the west desert which is ideally suited for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste. All of the natural resources, clay, gravel, rock, etc. exist naturally on or near the site, as well as the added plus of poor, contaminated ground water. Should we have a legislative body and Governor who could turn this mentality around, the state of Utah could be totally out of debt and provide outstanding education to its future, the children of Utah.

Years ago, several Utah business associations and business lobbyists united to successfully achieve passage of legislation restricting Utah State regulatory agencies from adopting rules and regulations "more stringent than corresponding federal regulations" unless after a public hearing and based on evidence in the record that corresponding federal regulations are not adequate to protect public health and the environment of the state. That law is found in Utah Annotated Code (19-3-104(8)).

Recently, at the urging of HEAL Utah, the Utah Radiation Control Board has proposed a rule which is clearly more stringent than corresponding U. S. Nuclear Regulatory rules that govern the disposal of depleted uranium as Class A waste. The Board has not initiated a process, including holding a public hearing to take evidence that the federal regulations are not adequate. The Board has not even attempted to identify which specific standards, rule or regulation is not adequate. Yet, the Board has initiated a rulemaking process to promulgate more stringent regulations at the urging of HEAL Utah, a disappointment to intelligent citizens of the state.

Over the years the Utah "no more stringent regulation" law has served the state very well and has fostered a healthy business climate in Utah. If state agencies ignore this law, Utah business will experience damage to its business climate, i.e. other companies in the state that HEAL Utah may wish to challenge. You as a body have been informed of the law and obviously have chosen to ignore it. Be aware, Utah business will not tolerate violation of this law.

As a citizen of Tooele County, state of Utah, I expect that the Radiation Control Board will conduct its duties in accordance with the law, and allow EnergySolutions, a Utah Company to conduct its business within the law.

Respectfully,

Karen Watson
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