

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 12, 2007

Samuel Bodman  
Secretary of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Bodman,

I write to express my support for the recently announced "Way Forward" for the West Valley Demonstration Project in Cattaraugus County, New York. In outlining new steps forward on this critical remediation project, the Department of Energy (DoE) articulated necessary moves for implementing a workable, environmentally-sound clean-up scenario for West Valley.

When the West Valley Demonstration Project was established in 1980, it was the hope of all citizens of Cattaraugus County that the project would move forward on bold steps to clean up the site. However, despite years of debate and effort, the former nuclear fuel reprocessing site remains a significant environmental danger to the citizens of Western New York.

Finally, with the "Way Forward," there is a concrete plan of action under which DoE indicates it will proceed with demolition of a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant, secure the safe removal and storage of radioactive waste canisters, and accomplish the removal of contaminated soil that is known to be leaching dangerous Strontium-90 into local groundwater.

The federal government must not wash its hands of this vital clean-up effort; rather, in partnership with other stakeholders, it must lead the way with action and achievable goals. Again, I support the "Way Forward" plan now under discussion, and I strongly urge the DoE to implement it with all due speed. The Department's prompt and decisive action will earn the appreciation of current and future Western New Yorkers. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator

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