



February 4, 2009

Senator Charles E. Schumer  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
531 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brian M. Higgins  
Larkin Building, Suite 601  
726 Exchange Street  
Buffalo, NY 14210-1485

Congressman Eric J. J. Massa  
1208 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: **ARRP Funding for West Valley Demonstration Project**

Dear Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, Congressman Higgins, and Congressman Massa:

In its January 23, 2009 press release the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations proposed that there be \$6.4 billion "*...directed towards environmental cleanup of former weapon production and energy research sites*" as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan (ARRP). The West Valley Citizen Task Force strongly requests that \$100 million be included in the stimulus package for the West Valley Demonstration Project. The ongoing cleanup of radioactive waste at the West Valley Nuclear Fuel Services site is a "shovel-ready" project for the Department of Energy.

This unique site reprocessed both weapons fuel and commercial reactor fuel when it operated in the 1960's and 1970's. Most of the fuel was weapons fuel. Cleanup of the site has been in progress since the 1980's under the West Valley Demonstration Project Act, but much more work remains to be done. Budget cuts in recent years have slowed this important work and greatly reduced the workforce at the site. Funding under the ARRP would restore the momentum needed during the present phase of cleanup, while helping rebuild the local economy. There are work plans in place that could be implemented immediately providing for effective use of the funds.

Our eventual goal is complete cleanup for the health and safety of the community. This goal is made all the more important by recent climate change reports from the National Academy of Sciences which note that western New York may be one of the more livable places to withstand the consequences of climate change. Arguably it is now all the more important to be proactive in the cleanup of environmentally dangerous sites in the region including West Valley.

West Valley Citizen Task Force  
c/o The Logue Group  
PO Box 270270 – West Hartford, CT 06107  
860-521-9122

The site has been plagued by delays, changed plans and budget cuts for over 40 years. We urge you to help us try to maintain the proper work force to continue this vital project.

On Behalf of the West Valley Citizen Task Force

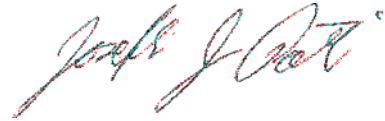
Sincerely,




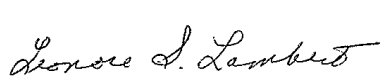
John Pfeffer



Raymond Vaughan

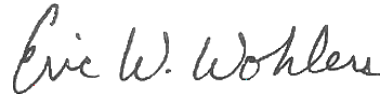


Joseph Patti



Leonore Lambert

Pete Scherer



Eric Wohlers



Judith Einach



Christopher Gerwitz



William Snyder

Copies:

The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Chris Lee, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Catharine M. Young, NYS Senate  
The Honorable Joseph Giglio, NYS Assembly  
The Honorable David A. Paterson, Governor of New York State  
Bryan C. Bower, Director, West Valley Demonstration Project

Paul J. Bembia, Director West Valley Site Management Program  
Paul A. Giardina, Region II, Chief-Radiation and Indoor Air Quality Branch, EPA  
Chad Glenn, Sr. Program Manager, NRC  
Timothy Rice, Radiation Section, NYSDEC  
Gary H. Baker, NYSDOH  
Adrian Stevens, Seneca Nation of Indians