



THE WEST VALLEY
CITIZEN TASK FORCE

April 24, 2019

Honorable Tom Reed
2263 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: The West Valley Demonstration Project Reauthorization Act and annual appropriations for the West Valley Demonstration Project

Dear Congressman Reed,

The West Valley Citizen Task Force (CTF) wants to express our gratitude for your sponsorship of H.R. 1138, the West Valley Demonstration Project Reauthorization Act. The act, if passed in the Senate and signed into law, will provide the necessary authorization for Congress to appropriate the necessary level of annual funding for the West Valley site – something we have been advocating for more than two decades.

The CTF appreciates your efforts and hope that passage of the West Valley Demonstration Project Reauthorization Act will enable annual appropriations to maintain level funding at \$75 million, so the critical work can get back on schedule. Maintaining such level funding has several benefits, including the cost savings that can be achieved by allowing necessary components of the work to proceed in parallel. For example, the last stages of repair/maintenance of the rail spur and the preparations for demolition/removal of the Main Plant Process Building need to move forward together, so that offsite transportation of large amounts of demolition debris can be done by rail. Other decontamination/deactivation work and the removal of contaminated lagoons will also benefit from the availability of rail transportation and the safety and cost benefits it offers. Synchronizing these complex tasks will reduce project costs, improve project coordination and eliminate redundancy in program efforts.

Stability of the workforce – a key factor for both the local economy and the continuity and efficiency of the project – also benefits from adequate and predictable funding. Most importantly, level funding at \$75 million/year will contribute to timely completion of Phase I and a smooth transition to Phase II which will address the radioactive wastes buried at the West Valley site. Depending on the option chosen for Phase II (decision pending in 2022 or 2023), clean-up costs may range up to \$8 to \$10 billion, potentially involving decades of additional work at an annual cost such as \$75 million. The Phase II decision will be based on erosion studies and other evaluations that are currently underway to protect Western New York communities and the Lake Erie watershed from long-term negative impacts from this radiologically contaminated site.

The West Valley Citizen Task Force
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The CTF appreciates your continuous support and know that you recognize the results and value of the ongoing work at the West Valley Demonstration Project. Given the excellent progress at completing work in a safe and efficient manner at the Project, and given the breadth of agreement and support from stakeholders on the path forward, we thank you for sponsoring the West Valley Demonstration Project Reauthorization Act and to continue annual appropriations at a level that maintains the momentum and achieves timely cleanup.

Sincerely,


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West Valley Citizen Task Force

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