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BUREAU OF
RADIATION CONTROL

GEORGE W. BUSH
GOVERNOR

August 30, 1999

Jack S. Krohmer, Ph.D.
Chair, Texas Radiation Advisory Board
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756

Dear Dr. Krohmer:

Thank you for sending Governor Bush your board's recommendations about the future of low-level radioactive waste management policy in Texas.

Governor Bush believes that low-level radioactive waste must be handled safely in order to protect Texans and the environment, and that we should find and license a facility to safely dispose of Texas' waste. He successfully urged Congress to ratify the Texas-Maine-Vermont compact, he emphasized that any disposal site in Texas must be shown to be safe before it should be licensed, and he disagreed with legislation proposed this past session that could have significantly increased the amount of low-level radioactive waste disposed in Texas.

The House and the Senate are now considering various issues for interim legislative study, and low-level radioactive waste management is one that they may take up. The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission also may study assured isolation. The Governor's Office does not plan to appoint compact commissioners at this time because the commission's principal duty would be to determine the appropriate amount of low-level radioactive waste to be disposed at the Texas facility, but no such facility has been licensed or constructed yet.

Thank you for your board's recommendations, and I encourage you to make your views known to the Legislature on this important issue.

Sincerely,

John L. Howard, Jr.
Environmental & Natural Resources Policy Director