

October 13, 2015

Dear Friend,

As you know, I have happily spent many years of my life serving Idaho and her citizens. As your 4-term governor elect, one of my proudest achievements was opposing efforts by the federal Department of Energy to use Idaho as a dumpsite for nuclear waste – laying the groundwork for my successor and friend, Governor Phil Batt, to negotiate the historic 1995 Batt Agreement.

This Agreement clearly states that *no new commercial nuclear waste will be brought to Idaho*. So when DOE made known its plans to shirk *clear* legal commitments made to you, Idaho's citizens, and ship commercial nuke waste to the Idaho National Laboratory – which is perched just above the Snake River Plain aquifer – Governor Batt and I knew we needed to act.

**I do not take legal action lightly, but DOE has left me no choice. I am writing you today to ask for your support of our lawsuit against the agency – filed September 29<sup>th</sup> by esteemed environmental attorney Laird J. Lucas of the nonprofit law group *Advocates for the West*.**

With Laird's expert guidance, we have unearthed some critical information – most notably that *DOE intends to ship far more nuclear waste than publicly stated*, despite having yet to make good on its legal obligation to clean up the 900,000 gallons of liquid waste *still* sitting untreated at INL. Curious to know what else the DOE was cloaking from the public, with Laird's help I filed a Freedom of Information Act request in January.

After taking several months to acknowledge my request, the department *finally* responded – by sending page after page of redacted documents. Laird swiftly produced a strong appeal objecting to DOE's decision to hide critical information from the public. Not surprisingly, our appeal was rejected on the basis that releasing information about DOE's plans for Idaho would "cause the harm of chilling open and frank discussion, limit government personnel's range of options...and detract from the quality of Agency decisions."

In short, DOE simply decided the information "would not be in the public interest." In Laird's words, "*The response is a joke. They have redacted almost all their supposed answers and are claiming national security concerns on almost every question. DOE simply cannot be trusted, and we will see what a Federal Judge has to say.*"

I'm left to conclude DOE has plans for Idaho that likely would not pass muster in the sunlight. We know they briefed the LINE Commission on the possibility of future "research" at INL involving over 20 metric tons of waste. What else does DOE have in mind? They're not saying.

Some DOE apologists have attempted to make this dispute about whether Idahoans "support the INL" – but that is not the issue. The issues Governor Batt and I are focused on are bigger and far more important: *what ultimately happens to the significant quantities of nuclear waste already in Idaho, what is DOE's plan to honor commitments already made, and what happens if we agree to take on even more waste?*

DOE owes all of us a real discussion about these questions, followed by real answers.

And so, friends, I write to you today with the request that you join our fight to bring DOE to justice. We cannot sit idly by while the feds run roughshod over Idaho by bending the law in order to suit a secret agenda.

**I respectfully ask for your help with a donation today to *Advocates for the West* – for the benefit and safety of all Idahoans.** Your gift will directly help fund our fight to force DOE to disclose to you, the public, its plans for our state and make the feds accountable for their actions.

Sincerely,



Cecil D. Andrus

***Governor of Idaho 1971-1977 and 1987-1995 and U.S. Secretary of the Interior under President Jimmy Carter from 1977 to 1981.***



Laird J. Lucas

***Advocates for the West founder and Executive Director***

P.S. *Advocates for the West* is an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your gift in support of their work is entirely tax-deductible, so *please give generously today!*