

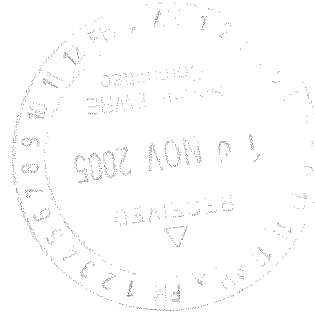
**Jurjevic, Dijana (SEN)**

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**From:** celina-huebner@web.de  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 November 2005 12:33 AM  
**To:** EET, Committee (SEN)  
**Subject:** plans for a nuclear waste dump in the Katherine region

To: Mr. John Carter,  
Secretary Senate Employment  
Workplace Relations and  
Education Committee

Suite SG52  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Mister Carter,

Katherine 17/11/05

I am writing this letter in concern of the plans for a nuclear waste dump in the Katherine region.

First of all I would like to make sure that I don't want to argue the necessasity of a nuclear waste dumb, as this would be naïve in recent times. It is a said matter of fact that we need one but it is probably too late to change this anyway. Our modern society has already gone too far in certain aspects to step back again... - It is the location I criticise.

The proposed location for the nuclear waste dumb is Katherine, which is sited in the Northern Territory, as you should be informed about. Out of my own experience I can say that in Katherine's temperatures, over three quarters of the year hardly ever sink below 40C. Latest researches prove that average temperatures have risen. We don't stay with nine month of over 40C but go strongly towards ten.

You might argue that this is no exception in concern of a general climate change, which we are going through. But this is exactly the point. 2005 has been recorded as an extremely hot year – over average even. It is the proof for environmental changes in our world. What about next year? Will 2006 be an even hotter year? Or what about 2010 or 2050 how hot will it be then? It is our exercise and duty to ensure our children's children a safe future. But can we guarantee this in conditions we don't even know how far they will be 'out of order'? It is definite that the temperatures rise, which is backed-up by professional scientific research but it, is indefinite how far 'out of order' the future really will be.

Now, in a region that is 'stinking hot' as it is and that we know about is getting even hotter – is it really clever to place a so poisonous substance in? Why risking a higher danger than necessary if there is other ways to go? The future could be our luck or our grave – still it is up to us.

“You could throw a dart at a map of Australia and have a 99 percent chance of finding a site. But there are over 5000 people within that area.” (William Tilmouth, Alcoota Aboriginal Corporation '05). Isn't it highly unfair to reduce the importance of a person, living in a surrounding of 5000 people compared to a person, living in the Capitol of Canberra?! Especially that we know the country we are living in provides other locations that have at least as much potential as the region suggested? Though, endangers no population? Again, where is the point in taking risks unnecessarily? Especially that the decision you are trying to make overrides any laws or concerns

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about land use, heritage values or Indigenous issues (The Australian Conservation Foundation, '05). And talking about Indigenous affairs: It is actually true that Aboriginal communities would be under the direct influence of this nuclear waste dump. Without having any racist attitudes I would like to direct your attention on the recent situation concerning Indigenous people in our region. No body can deny the fact that Aboriginal people are a major problematic issue in a Northern Territory citizen's every day life. A person who has ever taken a closer look on this regional problem and who has ever considered it in the aspect of a brand new nuclear waste dump, endangering mainly Aboriginal Communities must have thought about Indigenous right groups fighting equality. What will people say when they hear about that nuclear waste dump on Aboriginal land? Will the 'white man' be the evil, who is in the end responsible for the Indigenous man's bad luck in life?

I am not sure if you get my point but my concern is the sensible issue of Aboriginal affairs at the moment. No one seems to even have the faintest clue about a solution for the question why Indigenous people are such a problem in the Northern territory society.

But it can be assured that a nuclear waste dump, it has been struggled about enough as it is definitely won't improve the matter. If it makes it worse, I'm not sure either... However, it is certainly an important aspect that shouldn't be left unconsidered...

I also would like to discuss the location in the question of its distance to where the actual production takes place. Wouldn't it make more sense to store the uranium safely near there? The way we would handle it now includes another dangerous act of transport to a location that is so remote you actually can't really assure its security either.

In a century of terrorism that has only just started wouldn't it be immature to put a so poisonous weapon on trains and transport it over thousand of kilometres to a place called nowhere? Even that you might be able to ensure us safety for the container itself - who gives Australians, and the rest of the world a insurance for the safe trip up to Katherine?

Where is the balance between the Australian view of anti-terrorism regulations and the American version of safety policies? Australia is quoted as one of the next targets most likely for terroristic activity, maybe even more likely than America. Now, do you really want to give them a free shot? I know uranium can never be safe enough... But where do we fit in the world's adaptation of fear for terrorism? Not that I would want this fear but to be honest I don't really prefer to live in a contaminated world either. Sometimes you just don't have a choice.

In concern of our modern society, I would nearly call it abuse to offer thousands of new jobs in the expectancy that people work in conditions that are determined by danger (also or especially in a terroristic aspect). In general, I find it extremely said that some people have to be so reliable on money and dependant on jobs like these ones nowadays.

It is even worse that you make these people actually dependable on a substance that everybody knows is not worth it. This can be simply backed-up with the fact that nobody wants the nuclear dump. I can only hope that people react in an accurate manner when getting offered a good paid job in a poison dump. What about the morality? What is money really worth when talking about poison? But I assume that I can't count on some people's thinking about the simple idea of working to support uranium anymore. Money's status has risen too high... And still I call it abuse.

This is also still a question of you're morality, too. Do you yourself really think this is the right way to proceed and a good decision? Especially that we know that Lucas Height would be capable to store more uranium?

As I said I see the necessasity but I can't see the explanation for the location...

Yours sincerly  
Celina Huebner, Year 11 - Katherine High School

XXL-Speicher, PC-Virenschutz, Spartarife & mehr: Nur im WEB.DE Club!  
Jetzt gratis testen! <http://freemail.web.de/home/landingpad/?mc=021130>