

Cassandra Jones
1234 Arlington Drive
Arlington, VA 22209
January 13, 2009

Senator Mark Warner
United States Senate
B40C Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warner:

I am writing to ask if you would please support Sen. Robert Bennett's amendment to the economic stimulus bill—providing **\$100 billion in federal loan guarantees for clean energy technologies**—when it comes before the Senate Appropriations Committee.

► **Nuclear energy is a clean energy technology that does not produce greenhouse gases or air pollutants during operations.** Further, it is this country's only large-scale, reliable, consumer-affordable clean energy source, at 20 percent of national energy production. The current loan guarantee limit of \$18.5 billion for nuclear energy projects will not encourage construction of the number of nuclear plants that this country needs for future energy security.

► **Virginians have enjoyed affordable, dependable electricity for decades primarily because of North Anna and Surry nuclear power plants,** which currently provide our state about 38 percent of its electricity.

► **Nuclear energy is a source of substantial job growth**—2,000 to 3,000 workers are required to build a *single* reactor and another 700 to operate it, not counting the hundreds of engineers required to design it, thousands of workers required to manufacture new and replacement parts, and thousands of people in service jobs that support its employees. Multiply these numbers by the 26 reactors utilities seek to build across the country. Moreover, these jobs cannot be outsourced overseas.

► **Federal loan guarantees are not a subsidy, but insurance paid for by the recipient.** The plant developer pays a premium to the government for the loan guarantee, based on risk and administrative cost. Loan guarantees, in effect, cost Virginians nothing on their federal income tax, but can stimulate the investment required to refurbish our energy infrastructure.

► **Renewables alone cannot ensure our clean energy future.** As *intermittent* energy sources, renewables do not produce electricity all of the time when Virginia's residents need it. Being *variable*, they do not produce a steady supply of electricity when operating. In order not to destabilize the electricity grid, they must be backed up by fossil energy sources, primarily inefficient natural gas turbines that increase production as the wind dies down and decrease production as the wind blows stronger. Natural gas produces fully half of the carbon dioxide emissions of coal plants.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Jones