

ASSEMBLY
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

MICHAEL GAGE
ASSEMBLYMAN, EIGHTH DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814



July 3, 1980

John E. Bryson, President
Public Utilities Commission
350 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear *John* Mr. Bryson:

I am writing to register my strong support for converting the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant into an alternative energy producing facility.

As you well know, I have publicly opposed nuclear development since I was first elected to the Assembly in 1976. My reservations about nuclear power have become even more severe since the Three Mile Island incident which drew a clear illustration of the volatile and dangerous nature of nuclear energy and the adequacy of safeguards.

I am aware of conflicting reports with regard to the plant design and safety assurances, and conflicting reports regarding the manner in which the Nuclear Regulatory Commission arrived at its decision to approve the Diablo Canyon plant. A plant which is located 2½ miles from an earthquake fault capable of a shock of 7.5 on the Richter scale must be absolutely and conclusively safe before it begins operation. Viability of the plant during an earthquake is of critical concern -- not to mention the unresolved question of how to effectively dispose of the spent nuclear fuel.

In light of the above, I believe that the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant should be converted into an energy producing facility which would be safe and effective. I believe we must broaden our research of alternative methods of producing energy. We simply cannot afford the risks inherent in fission-based nuclear power and the compelling hazards of its waste products.

I urge you to carefully consider my very strong objections to using Diablo Canyon as a nuclear power plant.

Sincerely,

MIKE GAGE

MG:hhc