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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2502**

October 13, 1993

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The Honorable Hazel R. O'Leary  
Secretary of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave, NW  
Room 7A-257  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express my concern with the Department of Energy's handling of the radioactive waste site at Hazelwood, Missouri.

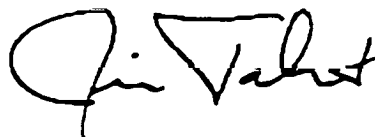
It is my understanding that the department is in the process of recommending to the Environmental Protection Agency one of five possible cleanup options for dealing with this site. Although a final decision is not expected until January or February of next year, I have reason to believe that the department will choose the "consolidating and capping" option at the St. Louis Airport site. Under this option, DOE would acquire property at the airport and move the Hazelwood waste there. This option is expected to take 14 years to complete and cost \$115 million.

There are several problems with this proposal. First, the proposal leaves the waste in an urban area. If the waste is not harmful to people, the government should say so. If it is harmful, then it should be moved outside populated areas. By far the worst thing to do is to dig up the waste, load it, and move it through a populated area—incurring all the risks associated with transporting radioactive waste—without even getting it out of metropolitan St. Louis.

Second, I am also concerned that the reason DOE is leaning toward this option is because of the cost. Capping and consolidation at the St. Louis Airport site is cheaper than moving it out of the state. I am convinced that, if the government had a private party on the line, cost would not be an issue. As you know, Hazelwood is a Superfund site and the government is responsible for all of the costs of cleaning it up.

Before DOE makes a final decision, I would like the opportunity to personally discuss this issue with you. Any consideration you would give to this request would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Jim Talent  
Member of Congress

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Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)

# ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

for the St. Louis Site, Missouri



U.S. Department of Energy

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