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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, **BC** 20515–2502

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Dr. R. L. Mullins, Jr. PEAICP FUSRAP Project Manager U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers 9170 Latty Avenue Berkeley, Missouri 63134

Dear Dr. Mullins:

I am writing to you with regard to the Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan for the removal of radioactive material from the St. Louis Downtown Site under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program(FUSRAP) now being administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Upon examining all of the proposed options for the remediation of the St. Louis Downtown Site(SLDS), I have decided to support Alternative 6, which provides for selective excavation and disposal. Under Alternative 6, all contaminated soils to a depth of 4-6 feet will be removed, and all excavated areas will be back-filled with clean soil. This recommendation is consistent with the recommendation of the St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force.

I am supporting Alternative 6 instead of the preferred alternative of the Corps of Engineers (Alternative 4) because:

- Under Alternative 4, greater quantities of radioactive contamination will be left in the soil. This will inhibit further development at SLDS since the on-going management of these soils, particularly during site development, is not addressed. Alternative 6 removes contaminated soil from most areas likely to be involved in future maintenance and development work.
- Also, if one considers the costs of managing these soils over the long term, there is essentially very little, if any, difference between Alternative 4 and 6, and Alternative 6 avoids shifting costs to property owners.

In addition to selecting Alternative 6 for remediation at SLDS, I urge the Corps to resolve the issue of continuing future responsibility for contaminated soils and materials that will not be removed. Property owners should not be required to bear the burden that is the federal government's responsibility

In closing, I would once again like to congratulate the St. Louis District Corps of Engineers for their commitment to cleaning up all the FUSRAP sites in the St. Louis Area. In less than a year since the Corps took over the cleanup responsibilities for all FUSRAP sites, significant progress has been made in formulating a thorough and acceptable remedy for the St. Louis FUSRAP Sites.

Sincerely,

Jim Talent

Member of Congress

JT/th

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