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COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
CHAIRMAN
FOREIGN RELATIONS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

October 19, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Sessions:

I am contacting you to express my deep concern with recent revelations that the Obama Administration approved a 2010 sale of American uranium reserves to the Russian government despite evidence that Russian nuclear energy officials engaged in corrupt conduct on U.S. soil.

In 2010, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) approved the sale of Uranium One, a Canadian-owned mining company that controlled twenty percent of American uranium reserves, to a Russian government-owned company. Recent reports indicate that, prior to CFIUS's approval of the Russia-Uranium One deal, the Department of Justice possessed substantial evidence that Russian officials engaged in bribery, kickbacks, and other criminal conduct to expand Russia's nuclear energy business in the United States. The reports note that the Department did not disclose Russia's conduct to Congress or the public prior to CFIUS's approval of the deal. Reports also note that it is unknown whether the Department provided any of this evidence to CFIUS during its consideration of the deal.

For several years I have raised red flags regarding the sale of American uranium reserves to Russia. In December 2010 I wrote a letter to President Obama expressing my strong concerns about the national and energy security implications of Russia's acquisition of Uranium One. In March 2011, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Chairman Gregory Jaczko responded that the NRC would take steps to ensure that the Russian government's use of the American uranium would not pose any threat to the defense and security of the United States. A copy of my letter and Chairman Jaczko's response is attached.

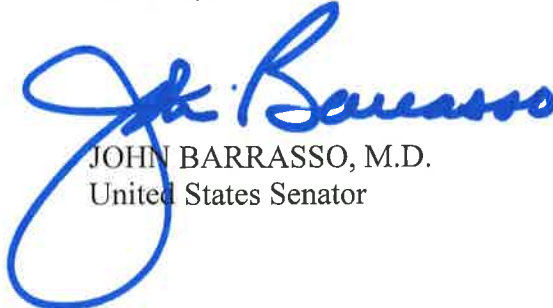
In May 2015, I wrote to Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew to again voice my continued concern with CFIUS's approval of the Russia-Uranium One deal. I noted that reports in the media revealed that foreign funds were used to influence the deal. I asked Secretary Lew to provide documents regarding any federal agency participating in the CFIUS review that expressed national security concerns with the deal. I do not have any record of receiving these documents from Secretary Lew or anyone else in the Obama Administration. A copy of my letter to Secretary Lew is attached.

I am extremely disheartened and disturbed by recent reports indicating that CFIUS approved the Russia-Uranium One deal despite the fact that the Department of Justice, a member of CFIUS, possessed evidence of corruption by Russian nuclear energy officials in the United States. A full account of whether the Department adequately disclosed this evidence to CFIUS is critical to provide transparency to Congress and the American public.

I ask that you provide my office with all documents disclosed by the Department to CFIUS concerning the investigation of Russian nuclear officials prior to CFIUS's approval of the Russia-Uranium One deal. I also request that the Department identify and provide my office with all documents related to this investigation that were not disclosed to CFIUS. In addition, I ask that you provide the names and positions of individuals within the Department who were responsible for determining the information to release to CFIUS. If any individuals decided not to release information, in whole or in part, please provide the names of those individuals and the documents related to those decisions.

If you would please provide the information requested by no later than December 1, 2017, that would be greatly appreciated. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Jed Dearborn of my staff at 202-224-6441.

Sincerely,



JOHN BARRASSO, M.D.
United States Senator

JOHN BARRASSO M.D.
WYOMING

207 Pine Street, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20507
202-224-6446

COMMITTEE
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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FOREIGN RELATIONS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

December 21, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am contacting you to express my strong concerns regarding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) recent decision to approve the sale of American uranium reserves to Atomredmetzoloto (ARMZ).

ARMZ is owned by the Russian government and has sought to acquire a controlling stake in the Canadian owned Uranium One, Inc. This transaction would give the Russian government control over a sizable portion of America's uranium production capacity. Equally alarming, this sale gives ARMZ a significant stake in uranium mines in Kazakhstan.

As you know, Russia has a disturbing record of supporting nuclear programs in countries that are openly hostile to the United States. Russia has directly aided Iran's nuclear development and agreed on October 15, 2010 to help develop Venezuela's nuclear program. This record is at great odds with our own national security.

America's national and energy security must be paramount in any future decisions by your administration. As was communicated to the NRC by my staff prior to the sale, I remain concerned with any attempt to grant an export license to ARMZ which would allow the Russian government to ship U.S. uranium overseas. I would request immediate notification should ARMZ file for a license with the NRC to export U.S. uranium.

In light of this recent NRC decision, developing U.S. uranium is critical. The U.S. imports nearly 90 percent of the uranium used in America's nuclear power plants. Currently more than a dozen license applications are pending with the NRC for uranium mines in Wyoming. These delayed applications, dating back as far as 2007, are unacceptable. I ask that you work with me to ensure an active and strategic domestic uranium industry that lessens our dangerous dependence on foreign imports.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,


John Barrasso, MD
United States Senator

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 21, 2011

CHAIRMAN

The Honorable John Barrasso
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

I am responding to your December 21, 2010, letter to President Barack Obama regarding the uranium recovery licenses in Wyoming now controlled by JSC Atomredmetzoloto (ARMZ), a Russian corporation.

Last November, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approved the transfer of control of the licenses from Uranium One USA, Inc. and Uranium One Americas, Inc. to ARMZ. At that time, we determined that the U.S. subsidiaries of Uranium One Inc. (the formerly Canadian, now Russian-owned firm that is the parent of the two U.S. subsidiaries) would remain the licensees and continue to be qualified to conduct the uranium recovery operations. As a condition of our approval, we required the licensees to notify the NRC before ARMZ appoints, hires, or designates personnel to perform NRC-licensed activities.

Once fully operational, the ARMZ licenses will represent approximately 20 percent of the currently licensed uranium in-situ recovery production capacity in the U.S. The licensed Willow Creek facility (formally known as Irigaray and Christensen Ranch) is expected to start producing uranium in 2011, and the licensed Moore Ranch facility is in the initial stages of construction.

At this time, neither Uranium One Inc. nor ARMZ holds a specific NRC export license. In order to export uranium from the United States, Uranium One, Inc. or ARMZ would need to apply for and obtain a specific NRC license authorizing the export of uranium for use in reactor fuel. Before issuing such a license, the NRC would have to determine that the proposed export would not be inimical to the common defense and security of the United States. Under existing NRC regulations, this means that any uranium proposed for export to Russia for use in nuclear fuel would be made subject to the U.S.-Russia Atomic Energy Act Section 123 agreement for peaceful nuclear cooperation and confirmed in case-specific, government-to-government assurances for each proposed export. Russia would be required to commit to use the material only for peaceful purposes (not for development of any nuclear explosive device), to maintain adequate physical protection, and not to retransfer it to a third country or alter it in form or content without the prior consent of the U.S.

Every application submitted to the NRC for a specific export or import license is made available to the public on the NRC's web site, and the NRC welcomes public comment on such applications. Our regulations outline in detail procedures for public participation concerning these license applications.

As you note in your letter, there is considerable interest in the area of uranium recovery, and we are now expecting as many as 16 new applications by 2013 for new recovery facilities or for expanding existing uranium recovery facilities, in addition to those we have already received. Since October 2007, we have received seven new facility applications (six in Wyoming) and four applications to expand or restart an existing facility. Of the new facility applications received, one has been licensed, two are nearing completion of their reviews and licensing decisions are expected in 2011, two others are under review, one has been deferred at the applicant's request, and one was withdrawn. Of the four expansions and restarts, we authorized the restart of the Uranium One Inc., Willow Creek facility in Wyoming, which had ceased operations in 2000, and authorized a plant upgrade for another licensee. The remaining two expansion applications are under review. For future reference, the NRC maintains the status of its application reviews on the agency's web site.

Under its governing statutes, the NRC regulates to assure the safe use of nuclear materials, but does not have a role in promoting any particular use of those materials. With respect to your request for cooperation with the Executive Branch in fostering a robust domestic uranium industry, the Department of Energy would be the agency responsible for such concerns. If you need any additional information, please contact me or Ms. Rebecca Schmidt, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. B. Jaczko', written in a cursive style.

Gregory B. Jaczko

JOHN BARRASSO M.D.
WYOMING

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COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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INDIAN AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN

United States Senate

May 13, 2015

The Honorable Jacob Lew
Secretary of the Treasury
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Lew:

I am contacting you regarding my continued concerns regarding national security implications of Russian government ownership of American uranium reserves.

Several years ago, there were serious questions raised regarding the national security implications of a case pending before the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), Case No. 10-40, that would sell American uranium reserves to a Russian government owned company Atomredmetzoloto (ARMZ). I wrote President Obama in December 2010 to express my strong concerns and make sure the Administration did not take steps to undermine our national security. A copy of the letter is attached.

My primary concern was that the deal would enable the Russian government to control a sizable portion of America's uranium production capacity. I was also concerned that the sale would give this Russian company a significant stake in uranium mines in Kazakhstan. I pointed out that Russia, as we continue to witness, has a disturbing record of supporting nuclear programs in countries that are openly hostile to the United States – such as the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I told the President America's national and energy security had to be the top priority in this deal. Safeguards needed to be implemented to prevent Russia from shipping U.S. uranium overseas. I asked for immediate notification if the Russian company filed for licenses to export U.S. uranium.

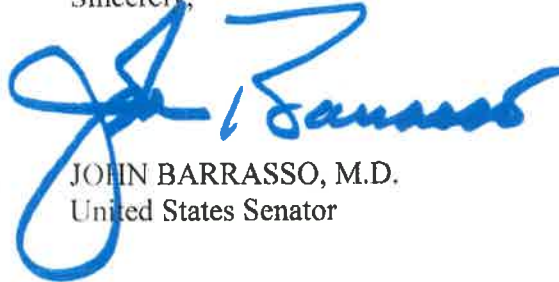
ARMZ now owns a 100 percent stake in Uranium One. The transaction to allow the Russian majority takeover of Uranium One was approved by CFIUS, which your agency chairs. National security implications of this deal continue to be of concern, especially with the recent revelations that foreign funds may have been used to influence the decision in the case (see attached *New York Times* story).

To provide the maximum amount of transparency to the public and Congress regarding the CFIUS approved sale, I ask you to please provide copies of any letters, analysis, or emails by representatives of any federal agency participating in the CFIUS review that expressed any concerns regarding the national security implications of this transaction between ARMZ and Uranium One. In addition, I am requesting any official correspondence, including the legally required threat analysis carried out by the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), sent to the CFIUS panel pertaining to this proposed transaction.

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If you could please provide the information requested no later than May 31, 2015, that would be greatly appreciated. If your staff has any questions, please have them contact Brian Clifford of my staff at 202-224-6441.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Barrasso". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

JOHN BARRASSO, M.D.
United States Senator

JB:bpc