



The State of South Carolina
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

CHARLIE CONDON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 14, 2001

The Honorable James H. Hodges
Governor, State of South Carolina
P.O. Box 11829
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Governor Hodges:

I strongly commend your efforts to stop shipments of plutonium to SRS for storage in South Carolina. Of course, it is vitally important that the State coordinate its efforts so that any plan of action is in conformity with the law. In our zeal to block the shipments, we do not want to expose the State treasury to millions of dollars in damages. That is why again I ask you to sit down and meet with me to develop a joint strategy.

Yesterday, you declined my request to meet – saying it is premature because the shipment is not planned until the fall. However, I believe a meeting at the earliest possible moment would send the signal to everyone that the State of South Carolina means business and speaks with one voice in this matter.

I note that you have also announced to the media that you have instructed your DPS Director, Mr. Rose, to conduct field exercises in anticipation of blocking at the State line any trucks loaded with plutonium which are headed into the State. You have stated that you will personally participate. Presumably, you plan to stand in front of trucks as they come into the State.

Of course, that gesture by you is something we all agree with in our hearts, but we must also use our heads. The State could be subjected to untold millions of dollars in damages – money that the taxpayers of the State will have to pay – if the trucks are physically blocked. Even if we do not agree with the law, we must ourselves respect the law. Disrespect for the law is not what we need. Now, more than ever, we need reasoned, logical thinking to develop a plan whereby these shipments can be blocked in accordance with the law. We also can call upon my excellent relations with the Bush Administration for the benefit of South Carolina.

That is why I strongly urge you to reconsider and meet with me so that we can develop a coordinated, legal plan of action. Please let me know at your earliest convenience whether we can meet sometime this week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charlie Condon".

Charlie Condon
Attorney General