



March 16, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the more than 11,000 men and women of the American Nuclear Society (ANS), I extend our deepest sympathies to the people of Japan as they begin to recover from a natural disaster of unprecedented proportions. We also salute the heroic efforts of the TEPCO/Fukushima plant operators as they work to facilitate a safe shutdown of the impacted reactors.

ANS has offered technical assistance to the Atomic Energy Society of Japan (AESJ) and is prepared to help the U.S. government in any way possible to provide needed assistance to the Japanese government and people.

We also thank you for your administration's measured political response to the current situation.

Clearly, events at the Fukushima Daiichi reactor site continue to evolve rapidly and our understanding of them has been clouded by conflicting information, and in some cases misleading media reports.

We are urging policymakers in the administration and Congress to withhold judgments on U.S. nuclear policy until the current situation has been resolved and the incident has been fully understood.

We recognize that the events in Japan will trigger a broader public discussion over the benefits and risks of nuclear energy. We welcome that discussion, but only after a complete technical understanding of its causes, progression, and impact has been established and fully evaluated.

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to you on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe F. Colvin', written over a white background.

Joe F. Colvin  
President, American Nuclear Society

CC: The Honorable Steven Chu, Secretary of Energy