



Dr. Axel Berg

Member of the German Bundestag
Deputy energy-policy spokesman for the SPD
parliamentary group in the Bundestag

Dr. Axel Berg MdB · Belgradstr. 15a · 80796 München

The President,
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Constituency

Belgradstr. 15a
80796 München
Tel.: +49 (0)89 39 41 80
Fax: +49 (0)89 33 02 99 06
email: axel.berg@wk.bundestag.de
homepage: www.axel-berg.de
Officer responsible: Roland Magnus Wolf

29.04.2009

Non-proliferation of highly enriched uranium – *München II* research reactor (FRM II)

Dear Mr. President,

I was very interested to hear what you said during the speech you made in Prague. You spoke of America's commitment to strive for a world without nuclear weapons. In addition, you said that if we were serious about stopping the spread of these weapons, we should put an end to the production of weapons-grade materials. I wholeheartedly agree.

I am writing to you regarding the *München II* research reactor (FRM II). This reactor runs on highly-enriched uranium (HEU). Even back in 2003 when the operating license for the construction of the reactor was issued, the license stipulated that the plant would have to be retrofitted by the end of 2010 at the latest in order to convert from HEU to medium-enriched uranium (MEU). The operator, Munich Technical University, together with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, has now announced that conversion to MEU will not be possible before 2016.

According to the university, the uranium used at FRM II comes both from Russia and from the US – though I find it hard to believe that the US would really supply uranium for the reactor. How do you view this situation, against the background of the stance that you have taken concerning the production of weapons-grade material? Are you in contact with the Russian Federation on this matter? Will the US continue to supply uranium for FRM II?

Deutscher Bundestag
Platz der Republik
11011 Berlin
Tel.: (030) 227 – 72178
Fax: (030) 227 – 70053
e-mail: axel.berg@bundestag.de

There are two reasons why I believe the use of HEU at FRM II presents a danger: firstly, because of black-market trade in nuclear secrets and materials and, secondly, with regard to worldwide attempts to persuade states of the value of non-proliferation. I would therefore like to ask you most cordially to strive to ensure that FRM II is in the near future at least converted to the use of MEU. In the long term, I believe conversion to low-enriched uranium (LEU) is vital. I am writing this letter with the agreement of my colleagues Ewald Schurer, Member of the Bundestag (SPD party), Jerzy Montag, Member of the Bundestag and Dr. Anton Hofreiter, Member of the Bundestag (both from the Alliance 90/The Greens party), who represent the area around the research reactor, along with the energy and technology spokesman from Alliance 90/The Greens, Hans Josef-Fell, and a group of concerned citizens formed in 1993, the *Bürger gegen Atomreaktor Garching*. I would like to thank you in advance for your efforts and wish you all the very best in the exercise of your office.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Axel Berg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "g".

Dr. Axel Berg

Member of the German Bundestag