



One Hundred Fifteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

August 22, 2018

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to encourage you to continue to engage with Japan on a joint effort to dispose of their plutonium stocks and to cooperate to deter the expansion of plutonium production in the region, and to request information regarding any plans you may have to further these objectives. As you are aware, the focus of U.S. nonproliferation policy has long been on preventing the spread of the capability to produce a nuclear weapon, especially uranium enrichment or reprocessing of spent fuel to acquire plutonium.

We are concerned that Japan and other countries in the region are considering reprocessing, as the proliferation risks of the civil use of plutonium far outweigh any of its commercial benefits. This fact played a major role in the Administration's decision to terminate the construction of the MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility at the Savannah River Site. We are thus encouraged that the United States has recently persuaded Japan to defer the opening of its plutonium reprocessing facility at Rokkasho. While peaceful, the continued expansion of Japan's stockpile of plutonium poses increasing proliferation risks, including by encouraging other countries in the region to acquire similar capabilities.

A key factor in Japan's decision-making regarding the future of Rokkasho is the disposition of its existing stockpile of plutonium. Close cooperation with Japan in finding a safe and satisfactory solution to this shared challenge is essential. For this reason, we believe it is of great importance that the U.S. and Japan undertake a joint effort to develop methods to dispose of plutonium stocks that do not require the recycling of plutonium and to cooperate to deter plutonium production in countries such as China and South Korea. This could strengthen our hand in persuading North Korea to dismantle its nuclear infrastructure.

We encourage you to continue to engage with Japan on these issues, and look forward to receiving the requested information regarding these efforts. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



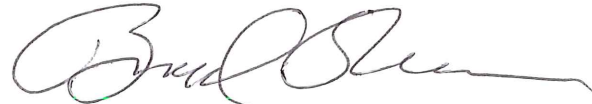
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