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COMPTROLLER GENERAL

1201 MAIN STREET, SUITE 430
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201
(803) 737-8030 (803) 737-9846 FAX

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 15, 2005

The Honorable Mark Sanford
Governor
State of South Carolina
State Capitol
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Governor Sanford:

On Tuesday, August 2, 2005, I attended a briefing and luncheon sponsored by CNTA of SC and the SC Congressional Delegation on the occasion of a visit by NuStart, a consortium of Nuclear Utilities who intend to propose a site to the NRC as a candidate for its licensing demonstration project for a commercial nuclear plant possibly on the Savannah River Site. I was pleased to receive a copy of the letter of support signed by the entire SC Delegation (copy enclosed) expressing encouragement to NuStart urging them to select the Savannah River Site because of its special features derived from its 50 years of nuclear activity and its potential value to SC. Other sites in SC may also be of interest to NuStart, but Savannah River was the focus of this visit.

I am aware of a similar visit by NuStart to Mississippi (supported by Governor Haley Barbour) and to Louisiana (supported by Governor Kathleen Blanco). At the luncheon I was pleased to sit at the table with Congressman Gresham Barrett and the leader of the NuStart team. Two other members of the NAC also attended the luncheon, namely Rep. Skipper Perry and Dr. Vince Van Brunt. The luncheon presentation by NuStart was informative and it followed an extensive presentation to Savannah River Sr. Management in the morning. The press was present and the NuStart team spent the afternoon touring the Savannah River Site. Although the subject was not discussed publicly, Congressman Barrett and I noted the role of the Barnwell site as a value added feature in locating the plant at the Savannah River Site. Even though Sen. Graham did not attend the Tuesday session, he had dinner the evening before with the NuStart Group.

I have polled the members of the Nuclear Advisory Council and they share my view that this is a prospect which could be of great value to South Carolina.

The Council members join me in expressing our appreciation for the opportunity of serving on your Nuclear Advisory Council and the effective liaison with Austin Smith and Scott English. We would welcome your visit to our September or December Council meetings.

Sincerely,

Ben C. Rusche

Ben C. Rusche, Chair

Attachment