

Pinedale NEC

Subl.

March 20, 1972

Mrs. Wayne F. Steele
Box 53
Boulder, Wyoming 82923

Dear Mary Ann,

Your splendid letter of March 12 is one of the most remarkable and exemplary expressions of civic duty which I have encountered in my years of public service. You've done your homework and stated your position logically, with compelling persuasion. Thank you for that, it's one of the rare joys of this job.

As you know, county residents will meet tonight to review this entire issue. I've sent a letter, via Sally Mackey, which I want read to the group. In that letter, I stress two points, both reflected in your letter.

1. I cannot support the idea of flaring gas. (In my official comments to the Atomic Energy Commissioner, I note the claim that alternative action would double the cost of Wagon Wheel. I asked him if using an alternative would make this project economically infeasible.)
2. I agree with you that compensations are not adequate and that the report is in fact dangerously vague on this subject. Unless these two basic objections are met, I cannot endorse this project.

As one of the plaintiffs who went all the way to the Supreme Court to stop the Amchitka test, I assure you that I place public safety above all. Regardless of the needs to develop new sources of energy, these plans cannot be implemented at the cost of human values.

The report which you cite has been sent to all appropriate State and Federal officers for comment. I have registered my objections and have obtained the A.E.C. consent to accept the views registered at the March 20 meeting in Pinedale. Furthermore, and I believe this is a major point, I have asked that when the final environmental statement is being readied, it include public hearings in Pinedale. This is far too important a matter to exclude those residents most directly affected.

I am so impressed by your presentation that I am forwarding it to Commissioner Schlesinger, asking that he respond to your comments. I hope to be able to follow up with his reply.

Your admonitions about faithless public servants are well taken, and I hope that Sublette County residents make their views known to the Congressional delegation and to the Governor. I am told that the project probably would not proceed if the Governor would vehemently oppose it. I am prepared to oppose this project, if my objections on gas flaring and compensation are not resolved, and I hope you can secure similar commitments from Wyoming's other major elected officials.

I hope you will urge your friends to also register their views with the Atomic Energy Commission. You can direct your letters to:

Mr. James R. Schlesinger
Chairman
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C. 20545

Please know that in a broad range of issues from the environment to foreign relations, Congress is mindful of the slow and persistent transfer of its law-making powers to downtown agencies. You have my assurance that in my votes and statements, the right of Congress, the directly elected representatives of the people, to make these decisions will be upheld.

With warmest personal regards.

Yours

Teno Roncalio
Congressman for Wyoming

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