

Center for Biological Diversity ● Friends of the Earth  
Greenpeace USA ● Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Public Citizen ● Sierra Club

March 18, 2011

President Barack Obama  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

We write to thank you for the support and help that you have provided to Japan at this time of terrible crisis and anguish. Our hearts go out to the Japanese people as they begin to rebuild after the earthquake and tsunami and as they courageously contend with the ongoing nuclear catastrophe at Fukushima. We hope that provision of Nuclear Regulatory Commission experts and military equipment and personnel will assist in the Japanese effort to avert further explosions, fires and radioactive releases from the stricken reactors and spent fuel ponds at Fukushima.

At the same time, we are deeply concerned about the confusion and tensions being created by conflicting statements coming from the US and Japanese governments about the risks from the radioactive releases and the need to remove members of the public from large areas surrounding the zone around the nuclear reactors. For example, the US announcement on March 16 that urges "U.S. residents within 50 miles of the Fukushima reactors to evacuate" is clearly quite different from the Japanese government decision to evacuate people from a 12.5 mile radius around the plants. While we believe that the US government's decision is clearly based on the recognition that the current and potential radioactive releases from explosions, fires, and venting from the reactors and fuel ponds pose a danger to the public, we are concerned that contradictory statements and policies add to the confusion and anguish of the Japanese population and growing anxiety here in the United States.

To dispel confusion, we believe that there must be a dual commitment to both the aggressive provision of public information and transparency on the part of government and corporate entities involved. To that end, we ask that you Mr. President undertake the follow:

-Immediately compile and release specific data on the radiation levels and isotopic content that US experts, agencies and military personnel have recorded over the last 48 hours. This information should also include the nature of the contamination found on naval vessels, helicopters and military personnel.

-Provide real-time readings of both radiation levels and listing of the radioactive elements identified in measurements taken by US personnel and drone aircraft in Japan, at sea, and here in the US (including our overseas territories).

Given that this means coordination of information from and procedures by different agencies (DOD, DOE, EPA, NRC, etc) we believe that this requires the attention of the White House. Just as the BP Gulf spill required your direct intervention and coordination to assure that there was not confusion in response, we look to you now for leadership in this devastating crisis.

With Respect,

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Center for Biological Diversity

Peter Wilk  
Executive Director  
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