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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

405004

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE  
SHELDON OLDS  
CEDAR CITY, UTAH

Hotel Ben Lomond  
Ogden, Utah  
October 7, 1954

Honorable Lewis L. Strauss, Chairman  
Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Strauss:

A recent wire service release appearing in our Utah newspapers indicated the Atomic Energy Commission is planning a new series of atomic and nuclear bomb explosions at the Nevada Proving Grounds next spring.

This news story has caused considerable alarm and concern in southwestern Utah, the area immediately adjacent to the atomic testing range. As you will recall, when the AEC conducted similar experiments in Nevada in the spring of 1952, considerable radiation fallout occurred in several of the Southern Utah counties. A large number of sheep and also some cattle on Utah ranges died shortly after these bomb tests occurred. In spite of repeated assurances from your office, many citizens in the southern extremities of this state are still convinced that their livestock succumbed as a result of adverse effects of the atomic blasts.

As you know the Experimental Station of the Utah Agricultural College is still doing research in this field to determine the exact causes of death to this abnormally large number of sheep and livestock. Funds for this research were only made available after I had personally made repeated requests upon the AEC for restitution to the ranchers concerned, or for an exact determination as to the cause of animal loss if it were not attributable to radiation. To date no payments have been made to these sheep or cattlemen for the loss of their herds.

In view of these facts, many of our citizens in Utah are greatly concerned and have expressed opposition to new atomic tests being conducted in the nearby Nevada Proving Grounds, at least until such a time as they can receive adequate reassurance that further life, health and property will not be endangered. As the United States Congressman from the area most closely affected by occurrences of radiation fallout from these experimental tests, I, too, am greatly concerned for the safety and welfare of my constituents, and the protection of their property from loss.

While I would not want to do anything to hinder or delay our national defense efforts, I feel compelled to ask that consideration be given to conducting these tests at some more remote area outside the continental United States. If such

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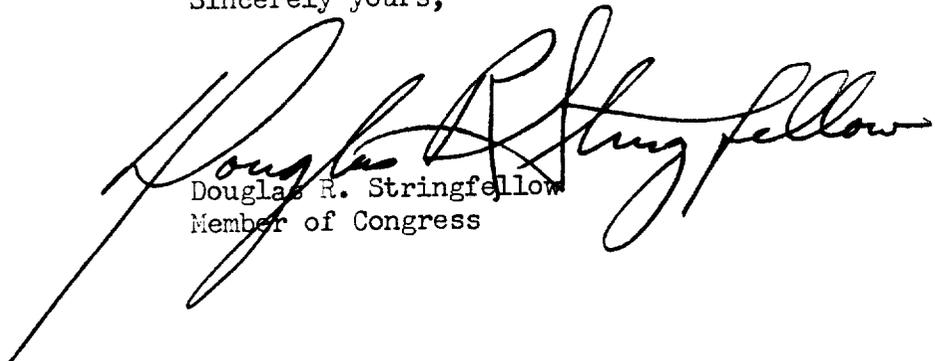
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~~change in location is not feasible, I then urge that the tests be delayed until present studies have been completed to determine the exact cause of death to Utah's range animals.~~ If such action is not taken many livestockmen in southern Utah may suffer further economic loss, because the fear--actual or imaginary--of the affects of the bomb explosions may cause many sheep and cattle producers to sell their herds and abandon their ranges. Such action in the face of already depressed farm and livestock receipts caused by drouth would be tragic to the ranchers in this area of the state.

It is earnestly requested that you give this matter very careful study and make every effort to rectify this situation before the AEC proceeds with their previously announced new experimental plans in Nevada.

Sincerely yours,



Douglas R. Stringfellow  
Member of Congress