has no intention of transferring land to California for our regional disposal facility. I cannot help but agree. There is no scientific basis for further testing prior to construction or legal requirement for a Supplemental EIS. These demands are purely political, and made for the sole purpose of delaying, if not terminating, the Ward Valley project. It is clear that, once these demands are met, more demands will be made. In short, because President Clinton doesn't trust the states to assume the obligations which Governor Clinton asked Congress to give the states, he has proven that the LLRW Policy Act does not work. Faced with this lack of political will to implement the policy he himself once supported, many now question the wisdom of expending further resources in a futile effort to further that policy.

The intransigence of the Clinton Administration in connection with the Ward Valley land transfer leaves me few options as Governor of California. The Ward Valley site is clearly the best site in California for LLRW disposal, a fact upon which my predecessor Governor Deukmejian and former President Bush agreed. All other sites, including the alternative site in the Silurian Valley, present potential threats to public safety not found at the Ward Valley site. The Silurian Valley site is also located on federal land, and there is no reason to believe that the Clinton Administration has any greater motivation to transfer that site.

Consequently, to continue the effort to establish a regional disposal facility, California would need to identify a site on privately-owned land which would be technically inferior to War Valley and would be unlikely to license in accordance with California's and my own uncompromisingly high standards for the protection of public health and safety. For these reasons, I would personally oppose identifying any other potential disposal site in California.

Therefore, as Governor of California, I am compelled to inform you that, because the Clinton Administration has made compliance with our obligations impossible, California will be unable to provide a regional disposal site for your state and the other states of the Compact during the tenure of this president. California will continue to seek title to the Ward Valley land, but will devote greater resources to a repeal of the LLRW Policy Act, and to the enactment of federal legislation making the federal government responsible for the disposal of LLRW.

The Department of the Interior has formally announced that California's LLRW generators are not harmed by its interference with the opening of the Ward Valley LLRW disposal facility because they have access to the disposal facility in Barnwell, South Carolina. Given the public safety threat to the good citizens of South Carolina, and the additional costs and exposure to liability to users, I find this suggestion questionable. Nevertheless, in order to make this an even marginally acceptable solution, I am calling upon the federal government to do all of the following:

Assume responsibility for assuring continued access for all California generators of LLRW to Barnwell;

Subsidize the amount of any transportation costs to Barnwell which exceed transportation costs to Ward Valley;

Ensure that California generators obtain any necessary permits for transportation across the United States and to Barnwell;

Indemnify California generators and transporters for any liability which might result from the necessity to transport California waste from coast to coast; and most importantly,

Hold California generators, including the University of California and other state entities, harmless form any federal or state cleanup related (Superfund or CERCLA) liability which they might potentially incur as a result of using a waste facility which is on a substantially less protective site than Ward Valley and which has already experienced tritium migration to groundwater.

If LLRW generators in your state have problems with storage or with use of Barnwell similar to those of California generators, I urge you to join with me in demanding similar relief.

Sincerely,

PETE WILSON.

WHITE HOUSE TRAVEL OFFICE LEGISLATION

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, on a separate subject, let me say I strongly support the efforts of the majority leader to repeal the President's Clinton 4.3-cent-per-gallon fuel tax. I also believe strongly that the efforts of the majority leader in this area will result in some relief to the consumers of America.

In my State of South Dakota, agriculture and tourism are the two most important industries. This is just the time of the year that farmers are driving their tractors, truckers are hauling agricultural supplies and produce and seeds, and tourists are beginning to come to see Mt. Rushmore and the attractions in southwestern South Dakota. They need immediate relief from high fuel prices.

I also support the Justice Department's antitrust probe into the recent price increases. Certainly, we need to know if price fixing is occurring. However, past antitrust investigations have failed to produce conclusive evidence of illegal activity. We need to take action now. I hope the Congress can avoid procedural delays and give immediate relief to millions of Americans at the gas pumps.

Let us remember that this Senate has been stalled by filibusters throughout this session. I know that the national media has stopped using the word ''filibuster,'' but that is what is happening. The Senate is tied up in knots. The approach of the opposition in this Chamber has been nothing more than gridlock and filibuster.

Therefore, I hope we repeal the fuel tax very quickly. We are ready to do it. Members of the Senate Finance Committee have discussed this. We are prepared to act.

THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, on yet another subject, I hope that the Federal Communications Commission follows the intent of Congress regarding the recently passed Telecommunications Act. I was privileged to be able to author and chair the Joint House-Senate conference committee on telecommunications. But I fear that some of the deregulation and some of the good things in that bill are being taken away by regulators who are now writing the regulations for that bill.

I have asked in our committee that we hold a hearing and bring those Commissioners before the Commerce Committee. I know many Members of the Senate have written to me urging such a hearing because they are concerned that the intent of Congress is not being followed.

The telecommunications bill was a very well-written bill. We had a checklist for the entry of companies into the regional, local telephone business and also for entering into the long-distance telephone business. Those rules are set. Also, the whole issue of the States' power and participation with the States' public utilities commissions was clearly written out in that bill.

I was just this morning told by one of our good public utilities commissioners that the States' powers are being undercut by the Federal Communications Commission. So we must be vigilant in trying to remind the Federal Communications Commission that their No. 1 guideline in the implementation of regulations is supposed to be intent of Congress.

I remember in Clark Weiss' law class the importance of ''intent of Congress'' for administrative law. That is the key that these agencies are supposed to follow. But that has been abandoned in this Government because now the agencies are more powerful in some cases than Congress. That is unfortunate.

But the Federal agencies, when they write the regulations, the foremost thing in their mind is supposed to be intent of Congress and not going off and starting to legislate all over. If they want to be legislators, they can go out and run, as I am running this year, and submit their name to the public. But they are not legislators. They are regulators. They are a regulatory agency, not the legislative branch of Government. I will plead with the FCC to remember that as they write those regulations. Mr. President, I yield floor.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WHITE HOUSE TRAVEL OFFICE LEGISLATION

The Senate continued with consideration of the bill.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I understand we are on the pending business and there are no time limits.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the actions