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**CLINTON CITES WARD VALLEY LAND TRANSFER
AS KEY REASON FOR BUDGET VETO**
Administration Concern Over Proposed Nuclear Waste Dump Applauded

In vetoing the budget passed by Congress, President Bill Clinton forcefully rejected an attempt by nuclear waste generators to gain the unconditional transfer of federal land to the State of California for use as a radioactive waste dump in Ward Valley, California. Clinton cited the Ward Valley land transfer as one of his primary reasons for vetoing the budget.

The strong message from the Clinton Administration on the land transfer legislation represented a significant setback for California Governor Pete Wilson and nuclear power plant operators who had hoped to bypass federal environmental protection laws, exempt the controversial nuclear waste dump from federal judicial review, and obtain an unconditional land transfer that would allow Wilson to ignore scientists' recommendations for further safety testing.

"Score one for the environment," said Dr. Joseph Lyou, Executive Director of Committee to Bridge the Gap, a public interest group that has been fighting the proposed Ward Valley nuclear dump. "President Clinton has acted appropriately in thwarting the nuclear industry's attempted end-run on the Ward Valley land transfer," said Lyou.

The Clinton Administration ranked the Ward Valley land transfer legislation among its top environmental reasons for deciding to veto the budget. In a list of reasons for the veto, Clinton ranked Ward Valley third under the heading of "Environment and Public Health." The top two reasons were the proposal to open the Arctic Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling and the continued sale of taxpayer-owned minerals for less than their true value.

For further information, please contact Committee to Bridge the Gap at (310) 478-0829..

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