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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Science and Technology Policy, Office of (OSTP)
Series: Bromley, D. Allan, Files
Subseries: General Science Files

OA/ID Number: 62044
Folder ID Number: 62044-017

Folder Title:
Nuclear Energy [1991]

Stack:

Row:

Section:

Shelf:

Position:

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"Document Control"

TYPE: ACTION

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 9124634

ORIGINATOR: 02

STATUS I

DIRECTORATE STATUS

FROM: DEERE, Don U.: NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

TO: DR. D.A. BROMLEY

NOV 6 1991

DATE OF
CORRESPONDENCE: 11/01/91

SUBJECT: REQUESTS DR. BROMLEY'S ASSISTANCE TO EXPEDITE THE
APPOINTMENT PROCESS OF THE NEW MEMBERS TO THE BOARD.

DIRECTORATE
ASSIGNED: PHYSICAL SCIENCES

STAFF
ASSIGNED:

ACTION
REQUIRED: AS APPROPRIATE

STAFF
ACTION:

OSTP DUE DATE: 11/18/91
DATE COMPLETED:

SENDER'S DUE DATE:
STAFF DUE DATE
DATE COMPLETED/DEPT: 11/18/91

COPIES TO: PHYSICAL SCIENCES

WHITE HOUSE TRACKING #:

CONTACT PERSON:

PHONE:

EXT:

REMARKS: Re-assigned to Physical Sciences.

Dear Dr Deere

Thank you for your communication concerning the

Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board. I recently spoke with Frank Press and
about the ~~new~~ ~~membership~~ and the membership nominations, and can

OSTP RECEIVED: 11/04/91

DEPT RECEIVED:

FILE: P-DAB-PERSONAL

CENTRAL FILES:

NUCLEAR
WASTE

assure you that OSTP will work to help
expedite the ~~appointment~~ ~~of~~ ~~new~~ ~~members~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~Board~~ ~~appointments~~. The
individuals you suggest would make
your recommendations are excellent ones.

Sincerely
JCE





4634

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910
Arlington, VA 22209

RECEIVED

91 NOV 4 10:56
November 1, 1991

OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

Dr. Allan Bromley
Science Advisor to the President
Old Executive Office Building, Room 360
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Dr. Bromley:

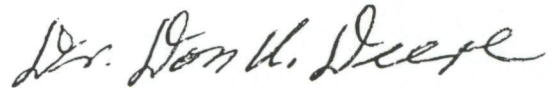
In the 1987 amendments to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, Congress mandated the creation of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (the Board) to evaluate the technical and scientific validity of the Department of Energy's (DOE) program to manage the disposal of civilian high-level radioactive waste. As the only independent, Congressionally-mandated, and on-going source of expert advice to Congress and the Secretary of Energy on the technical and scientific aspects of the DOE's program, the Board has played a very important role in helping to address the nation's civilian high-level waste disposal problem.

The NWPA specifies that Board members be appointed by the President from nominations made by the National Academy of Sciences (the Academy). The Board, however, has never had a full complement of eleven members. Three unfilled positions currently are being processed by the White House. Most crucial, however, is the fact that in April 1992, the terms of four other Board members will expire. Should these vacancies not be filled promptly, the Board's work could be seriously impeded.

Enclosed are copies of a letter and a summary of qualifications required of potential Board members, which I recently sent to Dr. Frank Press, President of the Academy. I asked Dr. Press to begin as soon as possible the process of nominating candidates to fill the upcoming vacancies. To provide continuity and because of their contributions thus far, I strongly recommend the reappointments of three members, all of whom have contributed substantially to our oversight program.

I would greatly appreciate any assistance you may be able to offer to expedite the appointment process. Your office was involved in the initial appointments. I have requested the same assistance from Ms. Constance Horner, Director of Presidential Personnel, Executive Office of the President, and have forwarded her copies of the letter to Dr. Press and the summary of requirements for Board members. I hope that the vacancies can be filled in a timely fashion so that the Board may continue its work without interruption.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dr. Don U. Deere".

Dr. Don U. Deere
Chairman

Enclosures

cc:

Dr. William Barnard, NWTRB



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD
1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910
Arlington, VA 22209

November 1, 1991

Dr. Frank Press
President
National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20418

Frank
Dear Dr. Press:

Nearly three years ago, on January 18, 1989, President Reagan appointed the first eight members (of a total of eleven to be appointed) to the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (the Board), thus fulfilling the mandate of the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act (NWPAA) of 1987. The Board provides an independent source of expert advice to the Congress and the Secretary of Energy on the Department of Energy's (DOE) program to manage the permanent disposal of civilian high-level radioactive waste. Since 1989, the Board has made good progress in its efforts to evaluate the DOE's scientific and technical programs. In fact, our *Fourth Report to the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Secretary of Energy* will be released in December.

The Board presently has three unfilled positions that are in the process of being filled by Presidential appointment from lists of nominees submitted by the National Academy of Sciences several months ago. Two of these vacancies are in technical areas that have not been previously filled (chemical/nuclear engineering; public policy). The third vacancy is in the area of radiology/health physics owing to the recent resignation of one of the original Board members. It is hoped that these appointments will be forthcoming shortly so that the Board may pursue its tasks with a full complement of members.

The purpose of this letter, with the preceding as a background, is to request that the National Academy of Sciences submit to the President of the United States lists of nominees for filling four positions which will become vacant upon expiration of the terms of these original Board members on April 19, 1992. These members and their respective disciplines are:

Dr. Clarence R. Allen - Geology
Dr. John E. Cantlon - Environmental Sciences
Dr. Donald Langmuir - Geochemistry
Dr. Don U. Deere, Chm. - Geomechanics

As Chairman, and as one who has worked closely with all the Board members over the past three years, I would like to request that you consider the first three persons on the above listing for reappointment by including them in the lists of nominees for filling the upcoming vacancies. They have been interested, active, and extremely productive Board members and command the respect of their peers, nationally and internationally. It would be a shame for the Nation not to take advantage of their knowledge and recent Board experience gained over the last three years.

For the area of geomechanics, I regretfully will not be available for reappointment for personal and family reasons. I suggest that for the list of nominees in Geomechanics you consider Professor E. J. Cording, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign). He has wide experience in the design and construction of tunnels and large storage rooms in soft rocks, including volcanic tuff. Moreover, he has been a consultant to our Board and is familiar with the Yucca Mountain site as well as the Nevada Test Site. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

As retiring Chairman, I would suggest that Dr. John E. Cantlon and Dr. Clarence R. Allen be considered as nominees for Chairman, provided, of course, that they are reappointed as members. Both may be reluctant to accept the appointment of Chairman, particularly Dr. Allen, who lives on the west coast. However, because of their past three years' experience on the Board, their scientific standings, and their strong leadership qualities, either would do extremely well in my opinion as Chairman. I believe that one or the other could be persuaded to serve.

For your convenience, I have enclosed a summary of those qualifications required of nominees for appointment to the Board. The summary is based on the NWPAA and other conflict of interest regulations applicable to the Board (i.e., 18 U.S.C. 208). It has been the Board's desire to minimize the perception of any potential conflict which could undermine its credibility.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to Ms. Constance Horner, Director of Presidential Personnel, and to Dr. Allan Bromley, Science Advisor to the President. Perhaps their assistance will be helpful in expediting the appointment process.

I greatly appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response. If you have any questions please call me at our Board office (703-235-4473) or at my home office in Florida (904-378-3061).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don U. Deere".

Don U. Deere
Chairman

Enclosures

cc:

Ms. Constance Horner
✓ Dr. Allan Bromley
Dr. Peter Myers, NAS
Dr. William Barnard, NWTRB

NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD (NWTRB)
Qualifications for members

The two essential characteristics of a Board member are **technical competence** and **objectivity**. These create the foundation of the Board's credibility, a vital element to the success of its program. The Board's enabling legislation (Public Law 100-203, December 22, 1987) addresses both of these areas.

To ensure competence the law provides that each person nominated by the National Academy of Sciences for appointment to the Board shall be (1) eminent in a field of science or engineering, including environmental sciences, and (2) selected solely on the basis of established records of distinguished service. Therefore, a member must possess an excellent scientific reputation and background in one of a wide range of technical areas represented on the Board. This established expertise supports the critical requirements of independence and objectivity.

The law also addresses **objectivity** from a conflict of interest point of view by providing that no person shall be nominated for appointment to the Board who is an employee of (1) the Department of Energy (DOE), (2) a national laboratory under contract with the (DOE), and (3) an entity performing high-level radioactive waste (HLW) or spent nuclear fuel activities under contract with the DOE. Thus the law recognizes the need for a member to be distant from the "program" to insure independence and credibility of effort. The law does not limit conflicts to those listed, and credibility may be compromised by the perception of a member representing a point of view of others with vested interests in HLW disposal.

Past involvement with HLW is not a necessity, nor is such past involvement a disqualifying factor. In fact, a strict non-involvement policy could limit the candidate pool to the extent of undermining the quality of the Board. However, present involvement with nuclear waste disposal may be disqualifying. In fact, eliminating any present involvement may be a requirement for serving on the Board. Minimizing the perception of a conflict of interest (as defined by 18 USC 208 or the Board's enabling legislation) is critical to the credibility of a member's contribution, and the Board's efforts in general.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

November 18, 1991

Dear Dr. Deere:

Thank you for your communication concerning the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board. I recently spoke with both Frank Press and Allan Bromley about the membership nominations, and can assure you that OSTP will work to help expedite the appointment or reappointment of new members to the Board. Your recommendations are excellent ones.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Karl Erb', written in a cursive style.

Karl A. Erb
Acting Associate Director
for Physical Sciences and Engineering

Dr. Don U. Deere
Chairman
United States Nuclear Waste
Technical Review Board
1100 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 910
Arlington, VA 22209

"Document Control"

TYPE: ACTION DOCUMENT NUMBER: 9125019
ORIGINATOR: 02 STATUS I DIRECTORATE STATUS

FROM: GRAMLICH, J. Edward

TO: DR. D.A. BROMLEY

DATE OF
CORRESPONDENCE: 11/24/91

SUBJECT: A LETTER REGARDING DR. BROMLEY'S VISIT TO ROCHESTER
ON 11/06/91. HE REQUESTS INFORMATION ON THE DISPOSAL
OF NUCLEAR WASTE AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN, AND THE PROPOSED
PLANTING OF A BILLION TREES IN TWO CONSECUTIVE
YEARS.

DIRECTORATE STAFF
ASSIGNED: ENVIRONMENT ASSIGNED:

ACTION STAFF
REQUIRED: DIRECT REPLY ACTION:

SENDER'S DUE DATE:
OSTP DUE DATE: 12/18/91 STAFF DUE DATE
DATE COMPLETED: DATE COMPLETED/DEPT:

COPIES TO: D. Allan Bromley
PHYSICAL SCIENCES

WHITE HOUSE TRACKING #: EXT:
REMARKS:

OSTP RECEIVED: 12/04/91
FILE: P-ENVIRONMENT
CENTRAL FILES:

12/9
Karl Erb +
Murray M.
Please draft a
brief reply for
signature.

November 24, 1991

RECEIVED

The Honorable D. Allan Bromley
Assistant to the President for Science & Technology
360 Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20500

91 DEC 4 10 55 AM
OSTP
MAIL ROOM

Dear Mr. Bromley,

We were fortunate, here in Rochester/Monroe County,
to have you address the Annual Meeting of the
Center for Environmental Information at the Holiday
Inn on November 6, 1991.

May I inquire about two issues?

1. Regarding the disposal of Nuclear Wastes, you com-
mented that these will be taken care of at Yucca
Mountain. Yet, in the NY Times Magazine Section
in September, one of your Advisory Committee wrote
a cogent article against this site because there is presently
evidence on one face of the mountain that already, over
the past X years, there has been ^{an} earthquake disturbance
causing the aquifer to spew up water, which now appears
as ossified remains. How do we protect against future
irradiation of sub surface water?

2. Can you send me particulars on the 1 Billion Trees
which will be planted in two consecutive years? (I am a member
of the American Forestry Assⁿ and the NY Forest Owners Assⁿ).

Thank you!

J. Granlich

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

January 21, 1992

Dear Mr. Gramlich:

Dr. Bromley asked me to reply to your questions concerning nuclear waste disposal and the Administration's tree planting initiatives. With reference to the latter, I am enclosing several brochures which I hope will provide the information you need.

Concerning the proposed nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, I understand that the consensus scientific opinion contradicts the position outlined in the New York Times magazine article you mentioned. But in any event, we are only proposing at this point that detailed characterization studies be made of the Yucca Mountain environment so that we can determine whether there is any risk associated with either earthquake disturbance or movement of moisture through the mountains. We really need to drill some bore holes in order to characterize the geology more thoroughly and answer with absolute certainty the question of whether Yucca Mountain is the right site.

Thank you for your interest in both of these important issues.

Sincerely,



Karl A. Erb
Acting Associate Director for
Physical Sciences and Engineering

Enclosures

Mr. J. Edward Gramlich
26 Tobey Court
Pittsford, NY 14534

be:IDAR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

ACTION

January 6, 1992

Response on
dictated on
machine
KAE
1/18

Priscila:

The attached action item, involving nuclear issues, has been reassigned to Dr. Erb. I have attached the Tree Initiative material to be included.

Thank you very much.

Kara

Priscilla -

1/17

Please ask Kara to attach
a copy of the incoming request
~~letter~~ letter - so I have a
perspective for my reply

KAE

"Document Control"

TYPE: ACTION DOCUMENT NUMBER: 9125019
ORIGINATOR: 02 STATUS I DIRECTORATE STATUS I

FROM: GRAMLICH, J. Edward

TO: DR. D.A. BROMLEY

DATE OF
CORRESPONDENCE: 11/24/91

SUBJECT: A LETTER REGARDING DR. BROMLEY'S VISIT TO ROCHESTER
ON 11/06/91. HE REQUESTS INFORMATION ON THE DISPOSAL
OF NUCLEAR WASTE AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN, AND THE PROPOSED
PLANTING OF A BILLION TREES IN TWO CONSECUTIVE
YEARS.

DIRECTORATE STAFF
ASSIGNED: ENVIRONMENT ASSIGNED: Karl Erb

ACTION STAFF
REQUIRED: DIRECT REPLY ACTION: Direct reply

SENDER'S DUE DATE:
OSTP DUE DATE: 12/18/91 STAFF DUE DATE
DATE COMPLETED: DATE COMPLETED/DEPT:

COPIES TO: D. Allan Bromley
PHYSICAL SCIENCES

WHITE HOUSE TRACKING #: CONTACT PERSON:
PHONE: EXT:
REMARKS: Per NM this has been reassigned to Karl Erb (Tree initiative
enclosures were forwarded w/ action item)

OSTP RECEIVED: 12/04/91 DEPT RECEIVED:
FILE: P-ENVIRONMENT
CENTRAL FILES:

"CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING"

TYPE: ACTION DOCUMENT NUMBER: 9123571
ORIGINATOR: 02 STATUS I DIRECTORATE STATUS

FROM: DEERE, Don U.: NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

TO: DR. D.A. BROMLEY

DATE OF
CORRESPONDENCE: 08/20/91

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ANY ASSISTANCE DR. BROMLEY MAY BE ABLE
TO OFFER TO EXPEDITE THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS TO FILL
THE VACANCY CREATED BY DR. CARTER'S RESIGNATION IN
THE AREA OF RADIOBIOLOGY AND HEALTH PHYSICS.

DIRECTORATE STAFF
ASSIGNED: PHYSICAL SCIENCES ASSIGNED:

ACTION STAFF
REQUIRED: FOR DAB'S SIGNATURE ACTION:

SENDER'S DUE DATE:
OSTP DUE DATE: 09/05/91 STAFF DUE DATE
DATE COMPLETED: DATE COMPLETED/DEPT:

COPIES TO: LIFE SCIENCES
Ken Yale
D. Allan Bromley
ENVIRONMENT

WHITE HOUSE TRACKING #: CONTACT PERSON:
PHONE: EXT:
REMARKS: Re-assigned to Physical Sciences 09/03/91.

OSTP RECEIVED: 08/23/91
DEPT RECEIVED:

FILE: P-DAB-REFERRAL

Nuclear Waste mgmt

OBE



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD
1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910
Arlington, VA 22209

91 AUG 23 All : 14

OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR August 20, 1991

Dr. D. Allan Bromley
Science Advisor to the President
Old Executive Office Building, Room 360
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Dr. Bromley:

In the 1987 amendments to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, Congress mandated the creation of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (the Board) to evaluate the technical and scientific validity of the Department of Energy's (DOE) program to manage the disposal of civilian high-level radioactive waste. As the only independent source of expert advice to Congress and the Secretary of Energy on the technical and scientific aspects of the DOE's program, the Board has played a very important role in helping to address the Nation's civilian high-level waste disposal problem.

The NWPA specifies that Board members be appointed by the President from nominations made by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). The Board, however, has never had a full complement of eleven members. Two as yet unfilled positions currently are being processed by the White House.

This July, one of the Board's original members, Dr. Melvin W. Carter, resigned his position with the Board creating a third vacancy. Dr. Carter filled a designated position in the area of radiobiology and health physics. This is a particularly important area at present as the EPA standard 40 CFR 191 is currently being revised. The revision may affect both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's regulation 10 CFR 60 and the Department of Energy's efforts to comply with the new radiation limits. The Board would like to see this position filled as soon as possible.

Enclosed are copies of a letter and a summary of qualifications required of potential Board members, which I recently sent to Dr. Frank Press, President of the NAS. I have asked Dr. Press to begin as soon as possible the process of nominating candidates to fill the vacancy, created by Dr. Carter's resignation in the area of radiobiology and health physics.

I would greatly appreciate any assistance you may be able to offer to expedite the appointment process. I have requested the same from Ms. Constance Horner, Director of Presidential Personnel, Executive Office of the President, and have forwarded her copies of the letter to Dr. Press and the summary of qualifications. I hope that the vacancy can be filled in a timely fashion so that the Board may continue its work without interruption.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Don U. Deere".

Dr. Don U. Deere
Chairman

Enclosures



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD
1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910
Arlington, VA 22209

August 20, 1991

Dr. Frank Press
President
National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20418

Dear Dr. Press:

Almost three years ago, on January 18, 1989, President Reagan appointed the first eight members to the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (the Board), created by the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act (NWPAA) of 1987. The Board provides an independent source of expert advice to the Congress and the Secretary of Energy on the Department of Energy's (DOE) program to manage the permanent disposal of civilian high-level radioactive waste. Since 1989, the Board has made good progress in its efforts to evaluate the DOE's program. In fact, our *Third Report to the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Secretary of Energy* was released this past May; our fourth will be released in November.

I am writing to inform you of a vacancy on the Board created by the recent resignation of Dr. Melvin W. Carter. Dr. Carter filled a designated position in the area of radiobiology and health physics. This is a particularly important area at present as the EPA standard 40 CFR 191 is currently being revised. The revision may affect both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's regulation 10 CFR 60 and the Department of Energy's efforts to comply with the new radiation limits. The Board would like to see this position filled as soon as possible.

As you know, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is responsible for nominating potential candidates for appointment to the Board by the President. The NWPAA requires the NAS to nominate no fewer than two persons to fill each vacancy. Nominations must then be subjected to a vigorous screening by the White House. Given these requirements, the appointment process could become a lengthy one. I would therefore like to request that the Academy begin as soon as possible the process of nominating candidates to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. Carter. As Dr. Carter's four-year term was to expire on April 18, 1992, we expect the new appointment to be for four years.

For your convenience, I have enclosed a summary of those qualifications required of nominees for appointment to the Board. This summary is based on the requirements of the NWPAA and on the Board's conflict of interest policy, which was recently developed in coordination with the Office of Government Ethics.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to Ms. Constance Horner, Director of Presidential Personnel, and to Dr. Allan Bromley, Science Advisor to the President. Perhaps their assistance will be helpful in expediting the appointment process.

I greatly appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response. If you have any questions, please call Dr. William D. Barnard, the Board's Executive Director.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don U. Deere". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Don U. Deere
Chairman

Enclosures

cc:
Dr. Allan Bromley
Ms. Constance Horner
Dr. Peter Myers

NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD (NWTRB)
Qualifications for members

The two essential characteristics of a Board member are **technical competence** and **objectivity**. These create the foundation of the Board's credibility, a vital element to the success of its program. The Board's enabling legislation (Public Law 100-203, December 22, 1987) addresses both of these areas.

To ensure **competence** the law provides that each person nominated by the National Academy of Sciences for appointment to the Board shall be (1) eminent in a field of science or engineering, including environmental sciences, and (2) selected solely on the basis of established records of distinguished service. Therefore, a member must possess an excellent scientific reputation and background in one of a wide range of technical areas represented on the Board. This established expertise supports the critical requirements of independence and objectivity.

The law also addresses objectivity from a conflict of interest point of view by providing that no person shall be nominated for appointment to the Board who is an employee of (1) the Department of Energy (DOE), (2) a national laboratory under contract with the (DOE), and (3) an entity performing high-level radioactive waste (HLW) or spent nuclear fuel activities under contract with the DOE. Thus the law recognizes the need for a member to be distant from the "program" to insure independence and credibility of effort. The law does not limit conflicts to those listed, and credibility may be compromised by the perception of a member representing a point of view of others with vested interests in HLW disposal.

Past involvement with HLW is not a necessity, nor is such past involvement a disqualifying factor. In fact, a strict non-involvement policy could limit the candidate pool to the extent of undermining the quality of the Board. However, present involvement with nuclear waste disposal may be disqualifying. In fact, eliminating any present involvement may be a requirement for serving on the Board. Minimizing the perception of a conflict of interest (as defined by 18 USC 208 or the Board's enabling legislation) is critical to the credibility of a member's contribution, and the Board's efforts in general.