

**From:** [Dave Congour](#)  
**To:** [mail\\_ulpeis](#)  
**Subject:** Promote solar energy, not toxic energy  
**Date:** Thursday, June 27, 2013 6:32:48 PM

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Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I own a small solar thermal company in western Colorado ([www.ccenrg.com](http://www.ccenrg.com)). It so happens that it's 98 degrees outside, and the sun is beating down with such intensity that everyone in our state is doing all they can to get out of the sun. Doesn't it make sense to use this otherwise wasted energy, rather than digging up our pristine lands, spreading around the most toxic minerals known to mankind, and spending obscene amounts of money to utilize the uranium once it has been processed, only then having to rebury it for eternity because the byproducts are so toxic?

If small solar energy companies such as mine received a tiny fraction of the money that is spent in the nuclear industry on obtaining energy from uranium, we could provide most of the energy needed to run our economy. Yes, there is the "storage problem", but it is simply an engineering challenge. Local solar energy initiatives contribute to distributed energy systems, rather than large, centralized power systems. I was once an engineer with Western Area Power Administration, and know how tenuous our power grid is. Decentralized power increases energy security in a world prone to vandalism and terrorism (not to mention increasing forest fires).

I am also a member of the Uncompahgre Valley Association, which has tracked the issues surrounding toxic waste resulting from the previous uranium booms of the last century. We simply don't need more of our lands ruined by toxic mine tailings.

Please put me down in opposition to the continued leasing of public lands for uranium mining.

Thank you  
David J. Congour  
Montrose, Colorado.

Dave Congour