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I'm deeply concerned that Hanford's High Level Nuclear Waste tanks continue to leak without any action to stop the leaks. Since the public meetings on the Agreement were held in July, USDOE has announced that a third tank is now leaking. USDOE clearly knew about this leak in July, but never disclosed it in the meetings despite numerous people raising concerns that the Agreement fails to require any meaningful action to stop leaks. I share that concern and want the Agreement changed to include enforceable requirements to remove leakable liquids from leaking tanks starting next year and to prioritize full retrieval of wastes from the tank farms that have leaking tanks. It is not acceptable to let those tanks in B and T Farms keep leaking until sometime after 2040.

I strongly support accelerating removal of waste from tanks in the 200 West Area. This is where 2 of the 3 tanks that are currently leaking are located. Acceleration is only possible if this waste can be treated and solidified into a grout and disposed offsite – in licensed facilities that have no groundwater. However, the waste must be treated and solidified before it is shipped up to 1,900 miles for disposal. USDOE needs to commit to immediate action to stop or reduce the leaks from Single Shell Tanks and dramatically increase the pace of waste retrieval.

It's surprising that an Environmental Impact Statement was not initiated. An EIS is required to review the impacts of decisions, such as not retrieving waste from leaking tanks; and to present reasonable alternatives to stop the leaks and speed up retrieval before more tanks leak.