

Congresswoman Jacky Rosen (NV-03)
Member Day Testimony
Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
April 17, 2018

Chairman Simpson, Ranking Member Kaptur, and Members of the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee – thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony for the record in opposition to funding the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository program.

I come before you today with two requests. First, I request that this Subcommittee include limiting language in its appropriations bill that would prohibit the use of federal funds to support activities associated with the licensing of Yucca Mountain. Second, I request that this Subcommittee reject the President's FY19 budget request and refrain from appropriating any funding for Yucca licensing.

In 1987, Congress amended the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to target Yucca Mountain in Nevada as the sole site for our nation's geological repository. The State of Nevada and local communities continue to oppose this site recommendation, and licensing proceedings have halted.

The President's FY19 budget request includes \$120 million to restart licensing proceedings for the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository and establish a robust interim storage program. Nevadans strongly oppose the construction of a repository at Yucca Mountain because it threatens our health and safety.

Using Yucca Mountain as the nation's dumping ground would require transporting over 70,000 metric tons of radioactive waste, much of it through my district, and through the heart of Las Vegas, a city

that attracts over 42 million visitors annually and generates almost 59 billion dollars in revenue according to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority.

Moreover, this misguided proposal requires the construction of almost 300 miles of new railroad tracks to transport the waste, putting more than 123 million lives near the proposed routes at risk. Such nuclear waste transportation directly threatens individuals living in nearly 330 Congressional Districts, including many of the districts that Members of this Subcommittee represent: CA-31, CA-42, FL-23, ID-02, IN-01, NE-01, OH-09, OH-14, TN-03, TX-12, and WA-04.

In addition, the Yucca Mountain project is also a threat to our national security and the readiness of our Air Force. The Yucca Mountain site is adjacent to the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR), the largest air and ground military training space in the contiguous United States. According to Air Force Secretary Wilson, there is no nuclear waste transportation route across the NTTR that would not impact testing and training.

Most importantly, Nevadans have not consented to allowing our state to become the nation's nuclear dumping ground. In its 2012 final report, the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future recommended that any plan to address nuclear waste storage must be based on scientific analysis as well as consensus from affected parties. Yucca Mountain does not have that kind of consensus. The majority of Nevadans agree that storing nuclear waste in Yucca Mountain is not a viable or sustainable solution.

As such, I respectfully request that you include the following language in the Fiscal Year 2019 Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill:

None of the funds made available under this or any other Act, or any Appropriations Act, may be used to support activities associated with the Yucca Mountain geological repository license application.

I also request that the Energy and Water bill itself include no funding for Yucca licensing or related activities.

I urge this Subcommittee to stop wasting billions of taxpayer dollars by resurrecting a project that's been dead for over 30 years, and instead identify viable alternatives for the long-term repository in areas that are proven safe and whose communities consent to storage.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress