

April 26, 2017

The Honorable John Shimkus
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee
on Environment and the Economy
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Paul Tonko
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee
on Environment and the Economy
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shimkus and Ranking Member Tonko:

Ahead of today's House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on the Environment and the Economy hearing on the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017, I write to express the American Gaming Association's (AGA) vehement opposition to any legislation that revives licensing activities for Yucca Mountain as a nuclear waste repository.

Yucca Mountain is located just 90 miles from the world's premier tourist, convention and entertainment destination in Las Vegas, Nevada, which welcomed nearly 43 million visitors last year. Over the past decade, the Greater Las Vegas area is one of the fastest growing in the U.S. with a population that now exceeds 2.1 million people according to an estimate from the U.S. Census Bureau. Any problems with the transport of nuclear waste to the site, or issues with its storage there, would bring potentially devastating consequences to the local, state and national economies.

The gaming industry in Nevada alone supports 430,463 jobs, pays more than \$18.7 billion in wages and generates \$7.9 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues. This economic engine is a critical part of the broader U.S. gaming industry operating in 40 states—including Illinois and New York—where together casinos directly employ more than 30,000 people and generate nearly \$2.5 billion in tax revenue to fund critical public works such as infrastructure, education and public safety.

The AGA stands with the many concerned citizens, small business operators and bipartisan members of Congress in staunch opposition to any attempt to restart the repository licensing process and will work tirelessly to ensure that radioactive waste is never stored anywhere near the world's entertainment capital in Las Vegas. I hope we can work together to forge a more feasible solution that addresses both your concerns, and those of Nevadans. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Geoff Freeman
President and CEO

cc: The Honorable Greg Walden, Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce Committee