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**Board of County  
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April 24, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Chairman

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member

The Honorable John Shimkus  
Chairman

The Honorable Paul Tonko  
Ranking Member

House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Subcommittee on Environment  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear: Congressmen Walden, Pallone, Shimkus and Tonko

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, the Subcommittee on the Environment will hold a hearing on a discussion draft bill, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments of 2017. We strongly support the effort and, in general, also strongly support the legislation. We believe the legislation and your hearing is a vital step in the process to solve the nation's nuclear waste issues.

As you know, Nye County is the site county for the Yucca Mountain high level nuclear waste repository. We would be the most directly impacted if the repository was built. We want to know if it can be built and operated safely. That is why we strongly want to review the science and have the facts determined by an independent agency of neutral professionals. When the State of Nevada suggests that the science is settled, that is simply not true. All the reports issued by the NRC, and the overwhelming majority of scientists that have researched the matter, suggest just the opposite -- that the repository can be operated very safely. We applaud the Committee in its attempt to have the decision on Yucca Mountain based on real facts and not politics.

We also challenge any suggestion that all Nevadans oppose Yucca Mountain. Nine of the seventeen counties in Nevada have passed resolutions asking for resumption of the license proceeding. In other words, the political leadership of over half of Nevada's counties support a comprehensive review of the science behind the license application for Yucca Mountain. Further, the latest informal polls taken recently in Nevada show that roughly 60% of the respondents want to see the license proceeding completed.

To date, the State of Nevada has refused to even discuss a path forward to a resolution of a science based review. Your bill is an attempt to start a discussion with the State. The State can even receive benefits without forfeiting its right to present a scientific case against Yucca. That is a reasonable offer and we hope the State takes advantage of it and comes to the table.

In short, we strongly agree with you that the license review process needs to be resumed, and that it be based on facts not politics. We applaud your efforts and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Schinhofen', written over a horizontal line.

Dan Schinhofen,  
Chairman

DS/jr