



June 4, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden, Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R.2699 - Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2019

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden:

As the advocacy organization of Nevada's largest industry, representing 73 resorts statewide with a force of nearly 300,000 employees, the Nevada Resort Association stands vehemently opposed to the proposed nuclear waste depository at Yucca Mountain a position we have staunchly held since 1991.

Reviving this antiquated proposal has the potential to negatively impact tens of millions of citizens as transporting nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain for storage remains a dangerous and unstable proposal not only for Nevada but for every state these radioactive materials would travel through along the way. The potential for a massive disaster is simply too great to dismiss.

Yucca Mountain is located approximately 90 miles from Las Vegas, Nevada, one of the world's premier tourist, convention and entertainment destinations welcoming more than 42 million visitors annually and home to more than 2.2 million residents and still growing. In addition to being a leading global tourism destination, Nevada has returned to being one of the nation's fastest growing states given our strong economy, job growth and quality of life. Factors that would be irreparably damaged should this proposal move forward.

Nevadans recognize tourism as the lifeblood of our economy, supporting 450,100 jobs and generating nearly \$68 billion in economic output annually. Tourism also provides nearly 40 percent of the revenue to our state's general fund thereby sustaining critical services and programs across the state. Beyond the obvious health and safety implications, Nevadans grasp the dire consequences of a nuclear waste depository at Yucca Mountain given the direct threat it poses to our tourism industry and, therefore, the economic stability of all Nevadans today and for

years to come. Any decline in visitation due to visitors' perception of the safety of the region would have immediate and long-term repercussions on our state's economy and future growth. As the gateway to the West for our international visitors, our neighboring states would also feel the economic impact of such a slowdown.

As you consider H.R.2699 - Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2019, we add our industry's voice to the growing chorus of opposition against this ill-conceived legislation and stand with the countless concerned citizens here in Nevada and throughout the many states this life-threatening hazard would pass. We are united with our state's business community, environmentalists, Tribal leaders, Nevada's Governor and our entire federal delegation in our opposition of any efforts to restart a project based on outdated and uncertain science.

We urge you to rethink this nearly 40-year-old policy and instead pursue a consent-based solution for the storage of nuclear waste that meets the demands of today's challenges for the safety and security of our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Virginia Valentine".

Virginia Valentine
President & CEO
Nevada Resort Association

CC: Members of House Energy and Commerce Committee