



STATE OF NEVADA
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July 6, 2016

The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Shimkus
Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: July 7, 2016 Hearing: "Federal, State and Local Agreements and
Economic Benefits for Spent Nuclear Fuel Disposal"

Dear Chairman Upton and Chairman Shimkus:

My office received notice of your July 7, 2016 hearing before the Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy to consider federal, state and local agreements and economic benefits for spent nuclear fuel disposal. I respectfully request that you include this letter in the record of the hearing.

Since 1987, the State of Nevada has consistently opposed the proposed high-level nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain based on serious scientific, technical and legal grounds. The Nevada Legislature has historically supported the State's opposition to Yucca Mountain. At present, since federal oversight funding has been eliminated, the Legislature has dedicated substantial funds to continue the State's legal efforts to oppose the repository.

Honorable Fred Upton
Honorable John Shimkus
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As you are aware, the State believes a Yucca Mountain repository poses unacceptable risks to the state and its people, and Nevada is prepared to clearly demonstrate in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) licensing proceeding that the site is unsafe, unworkable and cannot isolate high-level nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuel from the human and natural environment.

Since the Yucca Mountain license application was docketed by the NRC, Nevada has fully engaged in the licensing proceeding. Out of an initial 300 public health and safety contentions, Nevada currently has 218 contentions pending before the NRC. With NRC's recent issuance of the Supplement to the Yucca Mountain environmental impact statement, Nevada anticipates that it will need to file an additional 30 to 50 new contentions to adequately address issues related to likely groundwater contamination related to the proposed repository. In short, Nevada intends to aggressively pursue its case before the NRC and the courts to protect and advance its interests.

I strongly encourage you to consider having the consent of the host state and local community for the selection of any viable, potentially successful site for the development of a nuclear waste repository.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ad Paul Laxalt", written in a cursive style.

ADAM PAUL LAXALT
Attorney General

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