

HARRY REID  
NEVADA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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James Curtiss  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Commissioner Curtiss:

Thanks for contacting me concerning my remarks both in the Environment and Public Works Committee and on the Senate Floor. I am very pleased to hear that you do not in fact hold the position that current environmental standards should be weakened in order to facilitate licensing of the high level nuclear waste repository. I am sure that you can understand my concern when news reports claim that you hold such a position. Although you state in your letter that you never "intended that the Department of Energy should be allowed to circumvent health and safety standards", when I offered an amendment on the Senate floor making public health and safety the primary concern in the location of a permanent nuclear waste repository, it was defeated. I certainly hope that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission can be depended upon to protect the health and safety of Nevadans when it comes to licensing decisions on a permanent waste facility.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

  
HARRY REID  
United States Senator

HMR:wm

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PDR COMMS NRCC  
CORRESPONDENCE PDR