

# United States Senate

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May 8, 2018

The Honorable Kristine Svinicki, Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Svinicki:

I write to you in response to your May 1, 2018, letter in which you provided further clarification on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) answers regarding the Yucca Mountain licensing process contained in a letter dated March 20, 2018. While I sincerely appreciate your generally thorough responses to my follow-up questions, there is one critical question I have asked you in multiple letters that continues to go unanswered, and it is a question, I believe, that goes to the heart of the due process concerns that many of my constituents have. Given the importance of your response to this question to Nevadans and your unsatisfactory answers to date, I respectfully request you once and for all answer the yes-or-no question posed below.

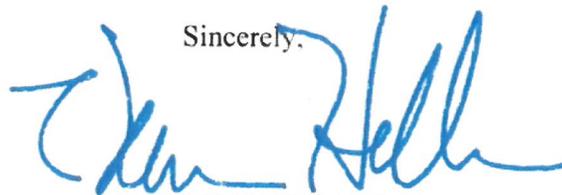
As you know, under my watch, I will not let one more hard-earned taxpayer dollar go toward the Yucca Mountain project. In fact, I am proud to say that because of my leadership, Congress has repeatedly refused to pass a law funding the high-level nuclear waste repository, a position that was recently confirmed in the fiscal year 2018 omnibus spending measure. Despite the Administration's attempts to revive this ill-advised and fiscally irresponsible plan, Yucca Mountain is dead. It is as simple as that.

In your response to Question 4(b), you stated: "The agency has a longstanding practice of holding hearings and associated sessions in the vicinity of the proposed facility. Indeed, in the Yucca Mountain proceeding, the NRC established a dedicated hearing facility in Las Vegas, which was subsequently dismantled . . . [when] the adjudication was suspended."

**Given the NRC's longstanding practice of holding local hearings and its previous establishment of a dedicated hearing facility in Las Vegas, will you commit to holding key substantive portions of the Yucca Mountain proceeding in Nevada should administrative adjudication be restarted and sufficient resources become available?**

Thank you for your timely attention to this matter. Please respond in writing no later than May 22. If you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Joseph Boddicker of my staff at (202) 224-6244.

Sincerely,



DEAN HELLER  
U.S. Senator