

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 21, 2022

The Honorable Christopher T. Hanson  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Stop O-16 B33  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

## **RE: Yucca Mountain License Proceeding**

Dear Chairman Hanson,

We write today to strongly urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to give fair and full consideration to the State of Nevada's motion to reopen the licensing proceeding to consider motions for summary disposition related to the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository. Since September 2011, the NRC adjudicatory process has been on hold, and these motions would initiate the process to lift the suspension and give the Commission the opportunity to vote on the Yucca Mountain license application.

The relationship between the Department of Energy (DOE) and State of Nevada has long been a difficult and painful one. For over three decades, the Department of Energy has left open the possibility of Nevada's becoming the dumping ground for the nation's nuclear waste. From the time the Nuclear Waste Policy Act was signed into law in 1987, there has been resounding disapproval by Nevadans.

Since the license application has been on hold, our State faces an uncertain future of not knowing whether hazardous nuclear waste will be forced upon us.

There are also significant financial implications for the State and the country. In 2008, the Department of Energy estimated that without major interruptions, it would take \$1.66 billion just to complete the multi-year process for receiving construction authorization. If that were to happen, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) estimates that construction of Yucca Mountain would cost between \$75 billion and \$119 billion.

This construction estimate does not account for the costs of transporting highly radioactive nuclear waste through 44 States and the District of Columbia, including 330 Congressional Districts. With an estimated 100,000 trucks needed to transport the waste, that would amount to an average of 4-6 trucks per day, every day, for 50 years.

Due to the safety, financial, and environmental implications for Nevada, we strongly urge your fair and full consideration of the State of Nevada's motion so that our State may have its voice heard in this process. We know you have a difficult task ahead of you as you make this critical decision. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact any of us, or our staff at your convenience.

Sincerely,



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



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Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



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Susie Lee  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Jeff Baran – Commissioner, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
The Honorable David A. Wright – Commissioner, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
The Honorable Bradley Crowell – Commissioner, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
The Honorable Annie Caputo – Commissioner, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff  
Department of Energy  
County of Inyo, California  
Eureka County, Nevada  
State of Washington  
State of South Carolina  
State of California  
California Energy Commission  
California Department of Justice  
Nye County, Nevada  
Clark County, Nevada  
White Pine County, Nevada  
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners  
Native Community Action Council  
Aiken County, South Carolina  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
Prairie Island Indian Community  
Joint Timbisha Shoshone Tribal Group  
Lincoln County, Nevada  
Four Counties (Churchill, Esmeralda, Lander, Mineral), Nevada