

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 6, 2020

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
188 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Feinstein:

As you consider funding solutions for the Senate Energy and Water Development appropriations priorities for Fiscal Year 2021, we respectfully reiterate our request that no funds be appropriated to the Department of Energy (DOE) or the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to support licensing activities at the proposed Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository site. We commend you for your years of leadership on this issue and for ensuring that this unsafe and fiscally irresponsible project does not receive funding. We hope you will continue to respect the voices of Nevadans, the Nevada Congressional Delegation, and the Trump Administration in calling for the nation to move beyond Yucca Mountain and put it to rest by pursuing innovative, alternative nuclear waste disposal solutions.

The Yucca Mountain site is both a geologically and geographically unfit site to house the nation's nuclear waste, and its selection as the nation's sole high-level nuclear waste repository was the result of a flawed decision-making process that ignored science and the will of the state. Nevada will not agree to house the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste. If the last three decades have taught us anything, it is that a nuclear waste facility cannot and should not be forced upon an unwilling host state. As the Subcommittee continues to consider short- and long-term solutions to address the storage and disposal of our nation's nuclear waste, we respectfully underscore the need to establish a consent-based siting process – such as that laid out in the Nuclear Waste Informed Consent Act (S. 649 / H.R. 1544). Consent is the only viable path forward to guarantee the responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars and our nation's nuclear waste.

The Nevada Congressional Delegation continues to stand with the State of Nevada in its strong opposition to the Yucca Mountain Project, and we respectfully request that you appropriate no funds for the DOE and the NRC to support licensing activities at the proposed Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository site. We ask that funding for any nuclear waste solutions support a

consent-based siting process that ensures potential host states and effected local and tribal governments have a voice. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator