



DINA TITUS
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
1ST DISTRICT NEVADA

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION &
INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

April 10, 2024

The Honorable Jeff Duncan
Chairman
Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on
Energy, Climate, and Grid Security
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on
Energy, Climate, and Grid Security
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Hearing on “American Nuclear Energy Expansion: Spent Fuel Policy and Innovation”

Dear Chairman Duncan and Ranking Member DeGette,

Today, as your Subcommittee discusses the management of spent nuclear fuel, I write to provide the perspective of thousands of Nevadans, on both sides of the aisle, concerning opposition to the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository.

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 344 Congressional Districts representing over 260 million citizens. 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.

Costs aside, the bottom line is this: Nevada does not produce nuclear waste; we have not consented to storing it in our backyard; and we should not have it forced upon us. That is why I introduced H.R. 1051, the *Nuclear Waste Informed Consent Act*, which has been referred solely to the Energy & Commerce Committee to require state, local, and tribal governments to provide consent before the construction of a permanent nuclear waste repository in their community.

Yucca Mountain is a failed project and due to the safety, financial, and environmental implications for Nevada, I strongly urge your consideration of my legislation to ensure people have a voice in where nuclear waste is stored. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dina Titus".

Dina Titus
Member of Congress