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3 MR. BUCKNER: My name is Mel Buckner, and I
4 represent the Citizens for Nuclear Technology
5 Awareness, or CNTA. CNTA is a 2,000-member
6 organization in South Carolina and Georgia.

1... 7 CNTA would like to go on record as endorsing
8 the conclusions of the Draft EIS for Yucca
9 Mountain. The Draft EIS is based on two decades
10 of studies and extensive site evaluations which
11 demonstrate that Yucca Mountain is a suitable site
12 for a geological repository. In fact, Yucca
13 Mountain is likely the most studied piece of
14 ground on earth. And further delays in the
15 schedule, which has already been extended a number
16 of times, would not provide any additional
2... 17 technical insights regarding suitability. Also we
18 endorse the current plan to provide the ability to
19 retrieve spent nuclear fuel and high-level
20 radioactive waste for at least 100 years and
21 possibly 300 years, to give additional assurance
22 that the environment and the public will be
23 protected.

24 In addition, this measure provides the
25 opportunity to employ new technologies that may be

2 cont. 1 developed during this period of time to further
2 reduce the radiotoxicity of the waste as well as
3 to effectively recover the energy. Senator Pete
4 Domenici of New Mexico has fostered a new national
5 dialogue on the full range of nuclear technologies
6 and several efforts have been initiated which have
7 the potential to enhance the integrity of the
8 repository. These technologies should be fully
9 evaluated and utilized if they are shown to
10 provide societal benefits, to be cost effective
11 and to enhance the acceptability of the geological
12 repository for ultimate disposal of these
13 materials.]

14 The CNTA was founded in 1992 in the central
15 Savannah River area of South Carolina and Georgia.
16 It's our mission to provide education about the
17 benefits of nuclear energy and the myths related
7... 18 to this important energy source. [CNTA is vitally
19 concerned about the problem of nuclear waste
20 because ten percent of the interim storage sites
21 are located in these two states. While interim
22 storage is acceptable for the short term, a long-
23 term solution has been expected for some time.
24 Additionally, the continuing lack of resolution of
25 the issue of nuclear waste is a waste of

7 cont.
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taxpayers' money. Methods for disposal of radioactive waste have been studied since the 1950s, when the National Academy of Sciences recommended geologic re -- storage -- as the best option. The Draft EIS indicates that no show stoppers have been identified, and it is prudent to move forward at this time.

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Certainly, within the two-state area the concern of transportation is a key concern, but experience at the Savannah River site indicates that this can be dealt with safely. The Draft EIS provides further assurance that the nuclear industry has demonstrated an excellent record in transporting spent nuclear fuel and that these practices will be relied upon heavily.

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The problem of nuclear waste has been an open issue in our country for nearly a half century, and a significant step in solving the problem is now well in hand. Maintaining the current schedule for opening the geologic repository at Yucca Mountain should be a national priority. With these actions that have been specified in the EIS and also the viability assessment, we can avoid near-term impacts on the ability of nuclear reactors to provide clean energy and assure that

4 cont. 1 the legacy of nuclear waste will not be left to
2 future generations.]

5 3 In addition, [CNTA is strongly supportive of
4 the nuclear technology initiatives that have been
5 established under Senator Pete Domenici's
6 leadership. These initiatives have the potential
7 to reduce or perhaps eliminate the need for
8 geologic repository capacity beyond that of Yucca
9 Mountain and to reduce the long-term integrity
10 requirements for geologic storage.]

11 MR. LAWSON: You've got 30 seconds, please,
12 sir.

6 13 MR. BUCKNER: [CNTA would also like to
14 recommend that the National Academy of Sciences be
15 requested to revisit the issue of radioactive
16 waste disposal before the EIS is finalized. The
17 study should focus on the criteria set forth in
18 the original recommendation and verify that Yucca
19 Mountain meets these requirements. The results of
20 this evaluation should expedite the EIS process by
21 providing additional assurance to the public and
22 elected officials that Yucca Mountain is a viable
23 site for the disposal of radioactive waste in rock
24 and deep underground.] Thank you for the
25 opportunity to speak on this matter.

1 MR. LAWSON: Thank you. The next speaker is
2 Marci McLendon, to be followed by Dr. Lois Congdon
3 and Andrew Cook.