

PUBLIC STATEMENT OF EVERT BRODERICK

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MR. BRODERICK: My name is Evert Broderick, and I'm representing myself, private citizen, Native Nevadan.

In my experience with human beings, I found that we often tend to understand something a little more easily if we look at it not head on but obliquely. And sometimes through the process of analogy, looking at something to be like something else. And with that in mind, I'd like to pose an analogy which I feel is particularly pertinent to this situation.

Back in historically, just a little bit before my time, so please bear with that, but back in the mid 50's, early 50's, into the 60's, we started as a nation, we started realizing we had a serious problem with air pollution. Particularly air pollution as it relates to industrial waste, burning of fossil fuels, coal, steel mills and that sort of thing.

So the initial response to that was rather than dealing with the actual problem, one of the main responses that came up was to build big smokestacks. Smokestacks three -- now there are smokestacks up to a thousand feet tall, over a thousand feet tall, as tall as the Empire State Building. The idea was we don't actually deal with the problem, we just get it out of here. We send it way up into the atmosphere, and it's not a problem.

People may have been aware that in the basic laws of physics, what goes up must come down. So they knew eventually that was going to come down, but the idea was, well, it's not going to come down over here, so it is not really our problem. Other people may have just felt, hey, it is going up, it is out of here, and we may never have to deal with it again.

It wasn't too long after that, early '70s, when a very serious problem started being recognized, and I'm sure most everybody here is familiar with the problem which resulted of acidification environment. Acid rain is the common term used. That acid rain was being spread all over the East Coast from these smokestacks that were spewing waste, industrial waste, combustion waste high into the environment, finally coming down over a broad broad area and wreaking basically environmental havoc.

Ultimately we have come to realize that that wasn't the solution, building the big smokestacks, getting them out of the immediate vicinity wasn't the solution. They realized that the only way to actually deal with it, besides not burning fossil fuels, was to deal with it at the source, dealing with it by -- there are numerous ways. I'm not that familiar with all the ways of dealing with it. But it can be taken care of

at the source.

So my basic analogy here is that the whole concept behind Yucca Mountain is a large smokestack. In fact, hundreds and hundreds of large smokestacks, each those smokestacks being, number one, the roads going from the point of origin of the materials, and some of those smokestacks are thousands of miles long, not a thousand feet but thousands of miles long. And ultimately we really have no idea where that waste is going to come down. Ideally we're saying it's going to be at the Yucca Mountain repository. But we don't know along route what is going to happen to it, and we ultimately don't have any clue what is going to happen to it once it is safely entombed in Yucca Mountain.

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I really challenge all the scientific evidence to be looked at. There is a lot of very brilliant minds that are coming up with scientific facts and figures, but ultimately I think if you really look at it, we have to admit that it's all speculation and all hypothetical. Because we really don't know what's going to happen. We don't know what's going to happen geologically in the next 500 years, in the next 50 years really. It's all speculation. Some very intelligent speculation but none all the same speculation.

We don't know what's going to happen with our environment.

I guess I'd like to leave -- earlier on it was suggested that posing questions as comments. I'm going to reverse this and pose my question as a commenter. I'm sorry, I'm getting confused. Anyhow.

I'd really like anybody involved in the upper echelons of Yucca Mountain, I'm talking about anybody involved in the facts, the figures, in the decisions being made, whether you're a scientist, whether's you are a bureaucrat, an administrator, whether you are a congressman, congresswoman, I'd like to ask you: Would you live in the area? This isn't a question of aesthetics but about whether you want to live in southern Nevada, wherever Yucca Mountain happens to be. Would you want to live in the area and raise your family in that area, the next three, four generations of your family? Do you feel that the guarantees are reasonable enough and the risk is reasonable enough to want to raise your family there?

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