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MAUREEN LAUBER: Hi. I don't have a formal statement prepared. I just recently found out about the meeting but I have been involved in working on nuclear issues for the last 10 years.
1 And it's very frustrating when you see the costs involved with these projects. And I'm especially concerned with the Department of Energy that, you know, all your energy seems to be going into dealing with the problem after it exists. And I don't know if you're as frustrated with it as I am. But I'm just wondering, if we only have an eight percent net gain with nuclear energy in this country, why are we spending $30 billion just to deal with the high-level waste? Actually $15 billion on the waste that we will generate in only the next 10 years. Where are we spending money on developing energy efficiency policy in this country? Is there anyone in your office who has any budget for that? That's a question. I wonder if anyone can answer it.

HOLMES BROWN: I said in the introduction that I don't work for the Department of Energy, so I think that there are folks who are available here on the panel that will be happy to respond. So I've mentioned that the question and answer period -- I think we won't have people answering questions during the comment period. But I think that there are folks available here who would be happy to respond to that question.

2 MAUREEN LAUBER: Well, my comment is we need to put money aside for energy efficiency, we should have done it 20 years ago and we wouldn't be dealing with this problem now. I don't
3 know if you people here are aware that none of these -- the facility will not hold any decommissioning waste, whatsoever. That's a whole other problem, that's a shock to me. And I don't know how you're going to be planning on dealing with the huge volumes of materials that
4... will be generated by that. And I just, you know, we've had some crazy ideas with handling our nuclear waste.

The Department of Energy once proposed launching it into space. And I guess they've abandoned that idea. But I found in my public library lots of publications about their plan about 20 years ago of launching waste into space. And, you know, transporting it around the country doesn't seem to be that much smarter.

I think we should just stop generating it and then deal with the problem. And many of us who are in the environmental field, have worked as volunteers and worked in different positions, are very frustrated because our strategy is supposed to be to do nothing until the problems get solved. Now we don't personally believe in that, that's just a strategy.

4 cont We know it's extremely dangerous to be on site but it's frustrating to have to allow it to continue. We'd like to see these generations halted because we can certainly use other means to bridge the gap. We have much more capacity in our coal plants and we certainly have not even begun to use the energy efficiency which is feasible. If we could just close the plants down, I think you would get a whole lot more cooperation from people in allowing us to deal with this problem.