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LINDA ABBOTT

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1 MS. ABBOTT: Hi. My name is Linda Abbott. I'm a resident here for over eighteen years. Me and my husband both work for the Clark County School District and we have raised both our children who have graduated from here. I after raising them went back to school and into the work force, and in doing so, I have taken an environmental class and also my English 101 class, and in doing this, I came across some information and I've been reading articles trying to, you know, get ideas for my argumentative essay, which I decided on doing was Yucca Mountain because of a particular article I read by Brian Greenspun that he wrote back in November.

I have found a lot of misleading information that I was concerned about because it seems like they're more concerned in turning us away from it and not reporting the facts. So I started doing some research over the Internet and other articles and so forth, and in doing as, I came across some interesting facts that everybody seems to be just kind of hiding behind. I'm going to read part of my paper that I turned in. I did take -- decided on doing an essay at my work to see if according to Brian that most thinking Nevadans were opposed to this, and here's some of what I came up with.

He claims that -- I'm going to make a few quotes from him, that the nuke dump which almost every thinking Nevadan opposes, while surveying people I work with at Henderson Middle School says lots of thinking Nevadans and the results show that seventy-seven percent believe our nation needs a high-level nuclear repository, thirty-seven percent believe it should be here at Yucca Mountain, and it sure doesn't sound like almost everyone to me. His article is full of other misleading information, as well, but I'll only quote one more thing.

2 He refers to the water needed for Yucca Mountain that's been in the news lately. He goes on to state that "are we really considering giving to the enemy the very water we need to destroy the way of life we have managed to create for ourselves and our family." Well, I believe on the contrary. We the people of the United States demand of the government, the enemy, do something about all the high-level nuclear waste. Well, that's what they're doing, as we arrive and now that the government is doing what we wanted and we don't want them doing it because it's in our backyard?

What about the hundreds of thousands of families that are now at risk because the waste is not in a safe place and what about all the surrounding ecosystems, as well? I don't believe we can leave the waste that all the locations generated at, either, any more than we can leave all the garbage we generate at home in our own yards. It's just not suitable or safe.

3... There are currently seventy-two commercial and five DOE sites in the US which are near or at their capacities and overflowing according to the nuclear waste primer by -- written by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. That means each site will have to build new above-ground dry storage facilities on their land. Currently most of their wet storage pools, which were only supposed to house spent fuel rods and radioactive waste until a permanent place was built. It also means that all the sites are subject to the elements like hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, something that gives me a chill because of all the natural disasters that have been happening lately.

Perhaps some of us have family and friends Back East where it flooded so badly. What would happen if the floods went through and took all the current waste that hadn't been solidified yet and spread it all over their towns and waterways, or maybe your family lives where tornadoes or hurricanes rip the countryside apart. Can you see hundreds of spent nuclear fuel rods spinning around like Dorothy's house in the Wizard of Oz? Only it would be real.

...3 We need to get this stuff underground and out of the elements and then we can work on the solutions like transmutation and retrievable storage, which they will be using Yucca for until it is full. That means the casks will -- the solid waste will be stored and will be kept up to Nuclear Regulatory Commission standards and be replaced as needed.

4 Another issue that concerned me is the misleading way transportation of waste has been reported. We all remember the commercial where a semi truck full of radioactive material is speeding through a Las Vegas neighborhood. There's children playing in the background and the truck's about to crash because of the hazards in the road. The commercial implies that the truck -- that when the truck crashes all the waste it's carrying is going to spill all over and kill the kids playing just feet from the road.

According to DOE fact sheet, transportation, all the waste would be transported in solid, not liquid form on trains and trucks used in major highways and interstates, not through neighborhoods. It will be remain in casks made of layers of metal designed especially for the transportation of high-level waste. All containers have to pass the NRC's regulatory -- regulations and vigorous tests ensure the safe transportation of the waste. In fact, the DOE states that since 1965, more than 2,500 shipments of spent nuclear fuel have been -- fuel have been safely carried out in the US between nuclear power plants, government research facilities and industrial complexes. That's thirty years they have been experiencing transporting safely high-level nuclear waste, not the bumbling idiots the commercial wants you to believe they are.

MR. LAWSON: Thirty seconds, please.

5 MS. ABBOTT: There is nothing good about nuclear waste, but we can't stick our head in the sand and hope it all goes away. The nuclear power industry's on its way out. Do we leave it sitting around all over the United States in environments not as suitable as Yucca Mountain? Do we do what's right and find the safest place even if it's in our own backyard? I believe we owe it to our children, no matter where they live, they don't deserve to live with our waste or have the problem what to do with it laid on their heads. And I think we should build railroads direct to Yucca Mountain, and the gaming industry is not going to be hurt by this. We all know gaming is an addiction and addicts will do anything to get their fix.