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MR. KELSO: My name is Larry Kelso and I work at Yucca Mountain. I'm an electrician at Yucca Mountain. And I've listened to all of this stuff from people that aren't even familiar with it. A lot of you I'm sure haven't even taken -- taken the tour to go there to see what's there.

I -- I'm an electrician. I provide power for the scientists that are there, and -- and getting worked up over any of this without scientific evidence one way or another is getting the cart in front of the horse.

We've got scientists out there that are -- and drillers that are mapping, they're photographing they're testing. Virtually every inch of that mountain inside and they've already done -- done their surveys on the outside. They've done surveys on the animal life. They've taken and listed all of the population, how many. They've taken -- that's fire.

(Interruption due to fire alarm).

MR. BROWN: Well, I guess we will resume your statement. Mr. Kelso, I apologize for that. I must say I think this is a tenth or eleventh hearing on Yucca Mountain I've done recently, and this is a first. We haven't had a fire alarm before. I was saying the last one of these hearings I ran was in Cleveland where it takes zero degrees out, so I'm glad we didn't have to repair outside in those circumstances. Thank you. You may resume.

MR. KELSO: I heard all the comments against Yucca Mountain, but nothing based on anything scientific, and that's really what we need to deal with.

I mean, I live here in Pahrump. I'm going to be one of the first ones if we do have pollution. We said over, what, 3 or 400 underground blasts and they were set up in the water table and we're talking about spent fuel rods that are going to be a thousand foot above -- above the water table, plus being encased.

And we will have -- if we have any pollution at all, it will be a long time before we ever get any out of these spent fuel rods. And as far as water pollution, our EPA has polluted our water system all across the country with the additives they've made the gasoline companies put in the gasoline so we can have clean air, and we polluted our water tables all across the country.

The -- the scientists are in the process of constantly monitoring. We've got -- we've got one part down at Yucca Mountain in one of the alcoves where they've created the heat that these canisters will create when they're stored, and they've done this for three years now, two to three years, but this heat is going to go up and they're going to shut it off and see, verify whether or not as these canisters cool, that they will suck in moisture from the outside. It's not a problem of -- of this seeping down through the -- through our -- to our water table, and radiation is a natural occurring thing. I mean, if you've ever been to New Mexico, that's where uranium comes from. We've got a lot of uranium mines in New Mexico.

The fact is I work with a lot of miners that grew up working in the uranium mines.

We don't have any nuclear power plants in this -- in this state, but we're hooked into the grid and we use electricity that's generated in these nuclear power plants, and also our main -- Nevada's main income is through gambling from people that live in states where nuclear power is generated. Are we going to tell them "Fine, guys, bring your money, but don't bother sending us your spent fuel rods"?

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: Yes.

MR. KELSO: Ain't going to work. Ain't going to happen. We're a very underpopulated state. The government owns most of the land. We're -- we only have two representatives, two senators, and we're we are going to be the depository. We're -- they're not going to leave the spent fuel rods in LA, in New York, down in Louisiana with a six -- six inch water table. It just ain't going to happen.

1 [Providing this is scientifically proven safe here, I have no problem with it, and if it isn't scientifically safe, I'd fight it to my dying breath, but it's not in yet.]

The -- in our -- the gentleman that spoke previously about the Native Americans, they're building casinos all through Arizona, California all being supplied with nuclear power. Them slot machines don't work without it.

2 [And as far as worrying about a thousand years from now, does anybody here think that Boulder Dam will be here a thousand years from now? That Lake Mead will not be silted up?]

Without water, there's not going to be any -- any people living here to worry about any radiation. And I've been all over the test site. I've worked there for -- oh, off and on for -- for about eight years now, and I sleep well at night. I have no problem. I've been in areas. I've been trained to work with radioactivity, and I just -- knowing what it is, how it does, how it reacts, I just can't be that scared of it. I know what we can do with it, I know what we can't do with it, but to generate just fear, I have a real problem with this.

3 [If it's scientifically based, let's go with it, but if it's not, let's get what we can get out of this whole thing. I mean, we're -- we can get a north/south railroad in this state. We can have four-lane highways between Vegas and Reno. We can have a lot of things, rather than trying to ignore the problem and hope it will go away, because it will not go away.]

It is here, and for us not to -- not to accept money or not to accept land and -- and trade off for what we're dealing with the government, it's ludicrous, because we're going to get it, guys.

Originally I came from Idaho. Now Idaho's more populated than what Nevada is, and they were going to get this, but they have enough people up there. They have ARCO. I've been there, also. That's a nuclear facility, and they're sending their storage to New Mexico, to Carlsbad where I've been there. It's a 2000 foot underground salt mine and they're storing -- they're storing low-level nuclear waste there, and salt mines are an ideal place for real low-level stuff in that salt always moves. You dig the -- you dig a tunnel back into the salt, you store your stuff in there and it keeps moving and it absolutely crushes it all into a compact -- just a compact thing. Everything is closed in and there's no water problem. And there is no water out at Yucca Mountain. It doesn't get much dryer than what it is out there, but all around Yucca

Mountain, they're -- they used to hold above- ground and below-ground nuclear explosions right out to Jack Ass Flats, and they moved -- there was -- if you ever go out there, you'll see the buildings where they were -- were used to try and develop an atomic propulsion system for our spacecraft.

They found out they could not protect the astronauts from the engine. There was too high -- too much radioactivity. They could not -- they couldn't get the propulsion they wanted and the protection they needed for the astronauts, so that was scrapped, but the buildings that developed and all that worked on this, they're still there, and now we've got a rocket. One company that's launching rockets out there from one of the previous buildings and they're trying to get more technology and more buildings out there, which we can do.

- 4 [If the technology becomes available to where we can take and process these spent fuel rods and either turn them back into where we can reuse them or we can actually just eliminate the radioactivity in them. We can have that facility built and in operation right out there at that test site. It would be an ideal place for it. They have trained personnel out there that can handle this stuff, but I'd be much more concerned with the -- with all of our underground explosions that we have had out at that test site than what I'd ever be with spent fuel rods.] Thank you.