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CHRISTOPHER KUCHURIS: My name is Christopher Kuchuris, K-u-c-h-u-r-i-s, for the record. I'm here to represent the community college, high school and the youth of America.

Today I speak on behalf of what I believe to be a great accomplishment in human engineering and superiority, namely Yucca Mountain, the national repository for nuclear spent fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

As a human being I often ponder how great it is to be living in this day and age and to be able to see such a facility conceived by the human mind, let alone to be built by us. Growing up in Las Vegas, Nevada I had been interested in the Nevada Test Site since I can understand what an atom bomb was that these devices were experimented with at Yucca Mountain.

To see images like this (indicating) at an early age make it very scary and thoughts -- just very scary thoughts for me and nightmares all the time.

MR. FLAHERTY: If you would like to submit those for the record, we'd be happy to.

CHRISTOPHER KUCHURIS: At a young age of eight or nine years old the thought of this could not come easy knowing that such a device could kill so many people in such great proportions. By age 13 I had a clear understanding that nuclear waste was going to be buried about 100 miles away from my city that I lived in.

I did not understand what nuclear waste was, and because of that hearing the word nuclear led me back to the horrible images of destruction at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Thus I was totally against Yucca Mountain. And after years of protesting without results, because of my young age, and at the time I decided to delve deeper into the mountain and find out what was really going on.

Attending the conference held by the Department of Energy at the Community College of Southern Nevada I gathered enough information on the subject to look at the other side of the picture and to understand the total concept of the project and how it can affect the world if we don't use it.

From there I became very interested and learned some amazing facts that I can never possibly conceive even in my wildest dreams. It has now been a few years since this conference, and I have obtained copies of the Viability Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. From these sources I have obtained all the knowledge I need to understand the Yucca Mountain

project and its amazing research. By reading these I understood the basic principles behind Yucca Mountain and what nuclear spent fuel is and how it's made from nuclear reactors.

Since the waste is spread over 72 commercial nuclear power plants and five Department of Energy sites, this nation is facing a crisis on what to do with this radioactive material. As of this year the Department of Energy was to provide Congress with their Final Environmental Impact Statement. Once I read the draft to this Environmental Impact Statement I was very convinced that this would be the best option for our nation's waste, and I believe Nevada should have accepted this repository.

1 | Once I received the Supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement I did not understand why there was a flexible design. This means that there will be no exact way to build this facility. Congress wants this Final EIS this year. Well, Congress is going to have to wait. Their final choice must resolve to gain the safest design. To make this plan for this project in haste would be like throwing an infant into a pool to see if it could swim.

If the Department of Energy is going to make changes now in the middle of the year, the final document needs to be developed. The Department of Energy is showing congress that they need more time to fully understand the heat displacement between the walls in the repository and how they are going to place the spent fuel by the numbers under the mountain.

It seems only more changes will be made once the project starts. Better technologies will arise in the near future that could change the whole design of the project, and then more billions of dollars will be spent researching those possibilities. This shows me that the Department of Energy is only finding the safest way possible to design this repository and should be given extended time to totally finish this design correctly.

2... | Our Congresswoman, Shelley Berkley, and Senator Harry Reid want to take all the funding away from Yucca Mountain and try to find other ways to deal with this problem. Reusing fuel and transmutation seem to be the only possible answer.

In the long run these ideas are not going to save us money but spend more money in a process which these senators and congresswoman want to do at Yucca Mountain. I do not believe that you can put a price on the safety of our planet which we strive to live on.

I strongly stand beside this project, and as a young adult I fear for the future of my children so they do not have to decide the fate of this national problem because today's government cannot decide what to do with this problem. And at the rate of time that is running out, waste containers are decaying and will seep out

2 cont onto the grounds all over the United States as predicted in the no action alternative in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

3 The nation needs energy. In turn we are destroying our plant with CO2 emissions, burn fossil fuels and spent nuclear fuel. Instead of spending money on ways to dispose of this nuclear spent fuel other than Yucca Mountain, the government needs to use this money to dispose of the waste now that is currently on the United States territory and shut down any reactors that are producing these radioactive materials.

MR. FLAHERTY: Could you read your closing statement, please.

4 CHRISTOPHER KUCHURIS: The U.S. needs to take their money and study new ways to produce energy that is effective in the industry as well for the environment so future generations can enjoy our beautiful planet instead of a polluted, infested wasteland, which I see coming because of bad political choices such as drilling for oil in Alaska and building more reactors with no idea on what to do with this waste.

Thank you.