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GEORGE YOUNG: My name is George Young, for the court reporter Y-o-u-n-g. I'm a Nevada resident living in Las Vegas with my wife and three-year-old son. I have an interest in the Yucca Mountain project. I think everybody who lives in Las Vegas has an interest.

- 1 [There's an environmental impact that we should be concerned about. I think at some point there will be an accident with the handling of the nuclear waste. I don't think anybody disagrees with that. And at that time -- well, just for some more selfish things, for our real estate. We might have to make an Environmental Impact Statement of our own when we disclose selling our real estate.

On a more nationwide level if we have an economy in Las Vegas instead of being the entertainment center of the United States we become the toilet bowl of the United States because we've had a nuclear waste accident, and our reputation and image that we've worked so long for as the entertainment center will no longer be what people first think it was. Instead it will be the place that had the nuclear accident and not a place to go visit.

If our economy gets hurt, just like in California when they had problems with their energy, and people were talking about well, if California goes into recession because energy is so costly, then that might trigger a nationwide recession. We will have an impact on the economy of the whole United States. So we're not just being selfish in saying that it's going to hurt our economy. It's also going to hurt the entire nation.]

- 2 [So at this point we all need to get active. A couple speakers ago one of the speakers mentioned that there is a bill that's coming up during this week that's asking the Department of Energy to divert spending from storage, which is what we've all heard about tonight, to instead spend money on breaking down waste, on speeding up the recycling of waste, which is being done in France now where they're very dependent on nuclear energy.

President Bush, as the speaker mentioned, has said that breaking down waste is of secondary importance to him and that the primary focus should be on storage. Well, we need, as citizens, if this bill does not pass it's my opinion at that time we should start the protest process. At that time we should begin action.

If this bill is not passed and President Bush and the Congress do not accept the change to study the breaking down of nuclear energy as the first study that should be done for as long as it takes and if that fails, then maybe we'll have to consider storing waste. But skipping the step of breaking down waste as a study is ridiculous and we need to protest that if that bill does not pass.

So I would ask everybody to watch the newspapers, watch the news and see if this bill does pass. If it doesn't, please talk to your neighbors, as the speaker before me suggested, talk to your friends. Let's get more media involved and let's get more bills presented to the congress.

- 3 [Also, I'd like to just point out that I think the Department of Energy is not really on our side, just by listening to the representative of Nevada, Mr. Joseph. Personally when I asked him about his concerns with earthquakes he said, Well, if there's any -- he said a few things but one of the things he said is, Well, if there's any seismic activity it will just divert any nuclear waste away from the population.

Okay. Now, what he's saying is he would not say that the storage containers will not break, okay. So he, in his statement that, well, seismic waste -- seismic activity will divert waste away from population assumes that he is considering that there may be an accident, that these storage containers may break, otherwise he would have just said the storage containers won't break.

- 4 [Also the Department of Energy has a job to disseminate information to the public. If they don't have the budget for advertising, which is obvious since there's only about 200 people here tonight and I've been waiting for months for a public forum on this project.

I know that everybody in Las Vegas due to their concerns with real estate, due to concerns with the economy, due to their concerns about their children will want to know about this issue when they hear more about it.

So let's help the Department of Energy disseminate information. Please do everything you can to pass along what you've heard tonight and anything helpful to get more people involved.

Thank you.