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KENNY C. GUINN  
Governor

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August 30, 2001

The Honorable Spencer Abraham  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Abraham:

We are quite concerned about the Department of Energy's recent announcement of the site recommendation consideration hearings, end of the public comment period, and the release of the Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation report. As you know, the notice of the availability of this document, which appears extensive, schedule of the hearings and the end of the public comment period was made on August 21<sup>st</sup>. The hearings are scheduled for early September, with the close of the public comment period set for September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Secretary, given the gravity of the decision that the Department is apparently ready to make and the impact that decision will have in Nevada, as well as the nation, we are requesting that the public comment period be extended for a total of 90 days, with public hearings scheduled for late in the public comment period. Providing less than 15 days for the public and others, to review and prepare substantive comments on the most critical decision that the Department will have made in this program, to date, is unreasonable and unnecessary, given that the program is already over 12 years behind schedule.

In the interest of providing the maximum public input and thorough review of the documents we request an extension to 90 days for public comment and the rescheduling of the hearings for a date at least 60 days after release of the documents. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Kenny Guinn  
Governor

Harry Reid  
U.S. Senator

John Ensign  
U.S. Senator

Jim Gibbons  
Congressman

Shelley Berkley  
Congresswoman

Namelist (2001-020208)

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The Honorable Kenny Guinn  
Governor of Nevada  
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Carson City, NV 89701

The Honorable Harry Reid  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Ensign  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Gibbons  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Shelley Berkley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515