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12 MS. CHOWNING: Vonne, V-O-N-N-E, Chowning,
13 C-H-O-W-N-I-N-G.
14 I don't have any prepared speech or anything.
15 I am an elected official, a State representative an
16 Assemblywoman of the state of Nevada. I represent
17 district 28, which is part of Las Vegas and part of
18 North Las Vegas.
19 I've been a state representative for 12
20 years. During those 12 years, I've had several
21 opportunities to send surveys and questionnaires
22 through the mail and talk face to face with thousands
23 and thousands of Nevadans, my constituents, whom I'm
24 very proud to represent.
25 I would say out of the entire 12 years of all
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1 the surveys, I've never had one person who has voiced
2 their support for the nuclear waste for the Yucca
3 Mountain repository. Overwhelmingly, their voices say
4 no. And that's why I'm here tonight. I proudly bring
5 their voices as they cannot come here personally. I
6 represent people who primarily are service workers in
7 the hotels and they are working. They're washing
8 dishes. They're cleaning rooms. They're dealing
9 cards. They're cleaning the floors. Or they are
10 people who are trying to get their babies to sleep.
11 They cannot be here tonight.
12 I am appalled at the manner in which this
13 so-called public hearing is being held because the

14 people that I represent cannot come to a facility such
15 as this. I personally had a very difficult time coming
16 here and it is not accessible nor personable to the
17 public. And yet, the message that is being sent is:
18 Trust us; we are your friends; we are doing what is
19 best for you. And even this is the true voice of what
20 they are doing to us and that is shutting us out,
21 making us feel as uncomfortable as possible, and trying
22 to hide what they are doing to us.
23 I also am the daughter of a person who worked
24 at the Nevada test site for many, many years and I feel
25 that the exposure to radiation shortened his life. He
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1 was told to trust the people who were his employers.
2 All of his associates with whom he worked have died.
3 Most of them died a very excruciating death and it was
4 because of the exposure to radiation. That is another
5 reason why I am opposed to the nuclear waste being
6 buried in my state, because it's been shown that we
7 cannot trust these people.
8 I also am the chairwoman of the State
9 Assembly Transportation Committee. As such, I've had
10 lots of research that has been presented to me and what
11 I have been told is that the means of transportation
12 will be mainly via railroad and the trucks that will
13 come off the rail car will be more than 200 feet long,
14 approximately 14 to 20 feet wide. They will be in
15 Caliente, Apex, or Jean. When those trucks come off
16 the rail, the only defense that our state has is to

17 have Nevada Highway Patrol officers escort these trucks
18 to keep the trucks from the general populous. You can
19 imagine how horrifying it would be for a private
20 citizen who is traveling on the road to encounter a
21 massive vehicle such as this.
22 And we've also been told that the low-level
23 nuclear waste that is being transported now in our
24 state never goes over the Boulder Dam, never goes
25 through the Spaghetti Bowl, never goes through the
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1 cities. Again, we are told to trust the Department of
2 Energy. However, last year at least eight shipments
3 did go through the Spaghetti Bowl, did go over the
4 Boulder Dam, and yet they were not supposed to. How
5 did that happen? The Department of Energy apologized
6 for that. They didn't know how it happened. It wasn't
7 supposed to. I am told that the drivers prefer to go
8 through the Spaghetti Bowl because it's a shortcut.
9 Now, that's low-level waste that is plenty
10 hazardous, very, very dangerous to our populous. And
11 the mother who is taking her kids to school, the man
12 who is going to work or the woman who is going to work,
13 is traveling along the road never knowing that
14 low-level nuclear waste is traveling right next to
15 them. But remember -- that wasn't supposed to happen.
16 It's for this and many reasons that I am highly opposed
17 to this nuclear waste being forced down our throats.
18 I came here originally as a young girl in
19 August of 1950. I've been proud to call Nevada my

20 home. I've been proud to raise my children and now my
21 grandchildren here. And I never, ever expected that
22 something as drastic as this would be shoved down my
23 throat. I'm here as a person, as a Nevadan, as a proud
24 representative of approximately 40,000 Nevadans to
25 voice my strong opposition to the nuclear waste coming
0044
1 to our state and also to the manner in which this
2 so-called public hearing is being put forth. Thank
3 you.
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