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20 BOB FULKERSON: Fulkerson, but let me tell
21 you, with a name like Fulkerson, I've heard worse, but
22 that's close.

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23 My name is Bob Fulkerson, and I'm speaking
24 tonight on behalf of Progressive Leadership Alliance of
25 Nevada, and I've just been taking some notes as everybody

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1 has been speaking, and so it's kind of a hodgepodge.

2 I'll try not to be too incoherent, though.

3 I've worked on this issue for a while now,
4 and I think that it's definitely an emotional issue, and
5 I think that not treating it as an emotional or a
6 spiritual issue gives the other side a lot more power,
7 and it takes our power away.

8 I think that most of the great fights for
9 civil rights, for environmental justice, to make the
10 world a better place have been won by great -- by
11 spiritual values and by emotional values and by people
12 leading with their hearts and with their spirits, you
13 know, not with "e equals mc squared," and so I'm glad to
14 see the emotion. I'm glad to see the youth speaking out,
15 too. That really, really is heartening.

16 You know, Nevadans have been used as guinea
17 pigs for the nuclear power industry and for the
18 Department of Energy and the Atomic Energy Commission and
19 the Energy Research and Development Administration for a
20 long time, since the '50s and '60s when they came in and

21 told us nuclear weapons testing was safe; all we had to
22 do was brush the fall-out off of our windshields and that
23 it would be okay, but there's a lot of downwinders in
24 every community downwind of Nevada Test Site who are
25 still suffering, and there's a lot of crosses on

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1 graveyards in communities downwind of the Nevada Test
2 Site, people who didn't survive the above-ground testing.
3 There's a lot of Shoshone burial grounds downwind of the
4 Nevada Test Site, both from the weapons testing that
5 happened and from the attempted genocide by the European
6 invaders which -- and that means that there's a lot of
7 healing that has to take place here in our state and a
8 lot of reconciliation that has to take place and a lot of
9 justice that needs to be done in our great basin, and I'm
10 real sad to live in a time when all this is coming to a
11 head, but I'm also really hardened by some of the passion
12 and some of the great truths I've seen expressed by
13 people at these hearings.

14 One of the things that really bothers me
15 about this whole process and about this (indicating),
16 about this, which is really an insult to birdcage liner;
17 this is an insult to toilet paper. This, for the purpose
18 of the stenographer, that is the sound of paper being
19 torn. It is a piece of garbage.

20 You know, every time that the Department of
21 Energy comes out with one of these documents and cloaks

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22 it in, you know, nice graphics or, you know, uses big
23 words like "unsaturated zone flow" or anything like that,
24 it sounds like it's given a lot of credibility, but in
25 fact, this has been a rigged game since day one. It's
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1 been about changing the rules, changing the guidelines,
2 changing the standards in order to make Yucca Mountain
3 fit these changed rules and guidelines and standards.

4 Bill O'Donnell up there, the senator, talked
5 about in 1982 there were three names that were in the
6 Nuclear Waste Policy Act. I wish I could talk to him
7 again and let him know that that is absolute baloney.
8 There weren't any names associated with the 1982 Nuclear
9 Waste Policy Act. That was actually a fairly decent act
10 in terms of how it was going to lay out standards.

11 You know, if we were going to do deep
12 geological disposal of high-level radioactive waste,
13 there were standards that the site needed to meet, and
14 originally there were 17 sites in the east that looked
15 like it might meet these standards, and there were 9
16 sites in the west that looked like it might meet some of
17 the standards that they had set up, and through
18 definitely a political game and a rigged game in which
19 the deck was stacked against Nevada, since we had two
20 first-term senators at the time and only one Congress
21 person, you know, Nevada ended up being it, and Yucca
22 Mountain didn't meet any of those standards or any of

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23 those guidelines or any of those rules that had been
24 established.

25 So what did they do? They went back and they

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1 changed the guidelines, changed the standards, changed
2 the rules, and all the while, you know, the Department of
3 Energy and their bagmen, like former Governor Bob List,
4 whose name should live in infamy right along with Bill
5 O'Donnell, going along and saying, trust us.

6 Well, I think we've heard a lot of people
7 tonight say that we're not about to sacrifice any more of
8 our land, any more of our water, any more of our
9 critters, any more of our people for the sake of the
10 nuclear power industry and so that they can have -- it's
11 about higher dividends for the nuclear power industry and
12 their stocks and going to a few greedy people who have
13 way too much power already.

14 You know, Mr. Gary Sandquist talked about,
15 oh, there's been some hearings -- he was the first
16 speaker up there -- in Salt Lake City, and the National
17 Academy of Sciences was -- you know, had signed off on
18 this project, which is not quite the case, and even if it
19 were the case, you know, the National Academy of
20 Sciences' record of nuclear waste disposal is not good.

21 In 1973 nuclear waste was going to go to the
22 Lyons, Kansas site and the National Academy of Sciences
23 at the time, the DOE's predecessor, Energy Research and

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24 Development Administration, had signed off on it. You
25 know, the NAS, National Academy of Sciences, said, yeah,
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1 this is a good site.

2 And what had happened is that the Kansas
3 Geologic Survey, kind of equivalent to our Nuclear Waste
4 Project Office, did their own independent studies apart
5 from the National Academy of Sciences and found that that
6 site behaved like a piece of Swiss cheese, that those
7 salt domes were not safe and it was a major embarrassment
8 for the National Academy of Sciences, so I would not be
9 putting a lot of credibility into them when it comes to
10 nuclear waste storage.

11 You know, our -- incidentally, our own state
12 was doing a great job with its own technical review and
13 its own independent monitoring of the engineering and the
14 scientific and technical work that was being done at
15 Yucca Mountain. In fact, they were doing such a good job
16 that, you know, the nuclear power industry was able to
17 lobby and get a lot of their funding, so now we don't
18 have the power to do a lot of those studies.

19 And I was -- you know, I also want to say
20 that I'm sorry to see my union brothers in the Teamsters
21 be so for this and the people, the ironworkers and the
22 carpenters be so for this nuclear waste dump. I think it
23 really does us a disservice to support this thing just in
24 the name of jobs. I mean, clearly there are some jobs

25 that nobody would want to do, and I think this is one of
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1 them, and, you know, the fact that the Teamsters are not
2 going to drive waste through Las Vegas, I think, is also
3 very telling, and that means that, you know, maybe
4 they'll go through other populated areas and rural areas,
5 and rural areas, of course, are where more expendable
6 people live, and I think that that's wrong.

7 Just in -- I think that -- I just want to
8 close by saying that, you know, history is full of people
9 fighting against overpowering odds, seemingly
10 overwhelming odds and winning, you know, all the time,
11 and I really think that's what we're going to do here in
12 this state because we have not let our guard down.
13 There's more people joining this fight all the time, and,
14 you know, I think Yucca Mountain will always be there as
15 a mountain, the spirit of that mountain will always be
16 there, and there's always going to be people like us to
17 protect it and to make sure that it remains
18 uncontaminated. Thanks for your time and good night.

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