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OCT 11 2001

Ms. Carol Hanlon
U.S. Dept. of Energy
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization
P.O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

September 30, 2001

Dear Ms. Hanlon,

I am writing this letter to let you know that I do not want high level radioactive waste (irradiated rods) shipped to Yucca Mountain.

Ms. Hanlon, this is a very common issue. The risks of shipping these irradiated fuel rods is not in the best interest of the American people.

- This is an unprecedented amount of high level radioactive waste coming from operating reactors. Yucca Mountain is an area that is seismically unstable. According to a seismologist from the University, Yucca Mountain leaks water. The British journal NATURE says "C."

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Nuclear Regulatory Commission] thinks that the Department of Energy, which is responsible for getting the repository built is seriously underestimating the risk presented by volcanos." (30 August 2001, p. 856)

I am also extremely concerned about the terrorist factor. How much easier would it be to sabotage a train or truck than a 767 airplane? I realize that armed escorts will accompany these shipments, but in reality a sniper could easily shoot and successfully carry out an act of terrorism.

At any given moment along a truck route, it is also possible a terrorist could attack. After all, we are talking in many cases, about thousands of miles of either rail or truck travel. According to the St. Louis Post Dispatch, "About 2,300 fully authorized police officers work for U.S. railroads, about 1 for every 65 miles of track. (30 September 2001) Other articles from this paper quoted experts as saying securing trucks and rail cars carrying hazardous materials as, "an enormous or monumental task." It's also interesting to note that at least nine suspected terrorists were arrested for fraudulently obtaining

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licenses to drive trucks carrying hazardous materials. That to most people is horrifying.

- The people in my area are not at all impressed with precautions that were previously in place with past shipments. Trains that were supposed to travel 35 m.p.h. were clocked by Greenpeace at 65 m.p.h. in another suburb. Our police and firefighters were to be notified ahead of time when shipments were coming. They were not. Any new safeguards that are put in place would not build confidence in my community.
- If popular opinion is considered, most people would like to see nuclear waste being produced. We would also like it kept on site in security buildings. I would like to believe, truly believe, the Department of Energy will protect us. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Lauren Bohannan
Webster Groves, Mo.

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