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## Office of the Governor

April 26, 2019

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Chairman, Committee on Environment and  
Public Works  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper  
Ranking Member, Committee on Environment and  
Public Works  
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

As your committee meets next week to discuss the future of high-level nuclear waste storage and disposal in the United States, I write to reaffirm the consistent position of the State of Nevada on the proposed Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository.

My position, and that of the State of Nevada, remains identical to the position of Nevada's past five governors: The State of Nevada opposes the project based on scientific, technical, and legal merits. I am totally opposed to any legislative effort to restart the Yucca Mountain project. As you and your members know, under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, only the governor is empowered to consult with the federal government on matters related to the siting of a nuclear waste repository.

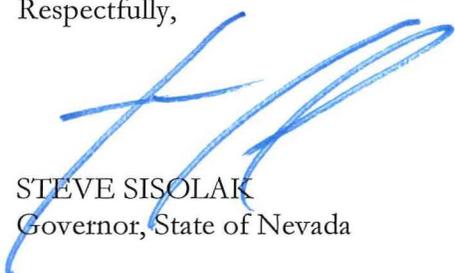
My staff has thoroughly reviewed the discussion draft legislation released by the committee this week. The proposed Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2019 would do nothing to repair the central failing of the current federal law. In 1987, Congress substituted political science for earth science and selected Yucca Mountain in Nevada as the only site for repository development. The draft legislation would not only continue this failed policy; it would seriously weaken Nevada's current due process rights to challenge documented safety concerns and adverse environmental impacts in the legally-mandated licensing proceeding.

This draft legislation will waste billions of additional ratepayer and taxpayer dollars. Attempting to force an unsafe site on an unwilling state will fail. The draft legislation only exacerbates the erosion of trust and confidence caused by the federal government's recent secret shipments of weapons-grade plutonium into our state.

I said in my State of the State address in January that not one ounce of nuclear waste will reach Yucca Mountain while I'm governor. I fully intend to keep my promise to the people of Nevada and fight against any attempts to restart the failed Yucca Mountain program. If your committee is truly

interested in fixing our nation's broken nuclear waste program, my staff and I, and Nevada's congressional delegation, would be happy to meet with you and explore constructive alternatives.

Respectfully,



STEVE SISOLAK  
Governor, State of Nevada

CC: Nevada Congressional Delegation  
Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works