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January 6, 2017

The Honorable John Shimkus
U.S. House of Representatives
2217 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear: Congressman Shimkus

Congratulations on your re-election to the 115th Congress. We look forward to your continued leadership this year on nuclear waste issues and the opportunity to work with you on this important matter.

We have been reading the press stories speculating on the views of the incoming Secretary of Energy as they relate to Yucca Mountain and are confident that you have much more information on this subject than we do. We also are confident that you are conveying to the DOE transition team accurate information about the Yucca Mountain licensing process. You are not letting misinformation gain traction, like the story that nuclear waste will be shipped close to the Las Vegas Trump hotel.

We want to reach out to the transition office to express Nye County's position on Yucca Mountain. However, given your better access, we request that in addition to delivering this message, you also make clear to the incoming Secretary that Nye County strongly supports resumption of the licensing proceeding, which is critical to determining if a repository can be safely built and operated at Yucca Mountain. Pursuant to the initiative of the Obama Administration, Nye County "consents" to this process and will consent to the construction of a repository if it is found to be safe. We believe we speak for many counties in Nevada who would like to see the Trump Administration follow the law of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) and base the location of the repository on science, not politics.

Regarding Governor Perry's previous support for an interim storage site, we agree with you that any interim storage authorization must lead to work on a permanent repository. If DOE pursues siting an interim facility we also request that Nye County be allowed to compete for it. We know this would require a change in the NWPA, but Nye County already has a 1,280 acre site identified that could serve as a suitable location for an interim storage facility.

(Congressman Shimkus)

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Again, Nye County wants to play a major role in the solution to the nuclear waste storage problem, as do most of Nevada's rural counties. Please inform the Secretary that when he decides to restart the Yucca Mountain licensing proceeding, he will find willing partners and supporters in Nye County.

Thank you for all of your efforts.

Sincerely,



Dan Schinhofen
Chairman

DS/jr