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24 MS. CITRON: Hi. My name is Kay Citron. I
25 am a nurse and mother of four children and a

1 somewhat inactive member of Georgians Against
2 Nuclear Energy. But I did want to take this
3 opportunity to come out today and say thank you to
4 the DOE for giving us this opportunity.

5 I'll start out by reading a list of rules
6 that, as a mother, I share with my children at a
7 very early age in hopes that they will learn it
8 thoroughly and carry it on to their adult life and
9 even the work aspect of their life. House rules
10 -- and here I've sort of added to it, "for the
11 home we call Earth." Number one: if you dirty
12 it, clean it. Number two: if you get it out, put
13 it away. Number three: if you lose it, find it.
14 Number four: if you drop it, pick it up. Number
15 five: if you open it, close it. Number six: if
16 you turn it on, turn it off. Number seven: if
17 you borrow it, return it. Number eight, if you
18 move it, put it back. Number nine: if you break
19 it, replace it. Number ten: if it howls, feed
20 it. Number eleven: if it cries, love it. And
21 number twelve: if you value it, care for it.

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22 We live in this home together called Earth;
23 and to live together more harmoniously, we must
24 abide by certain rules. Most children are taught
25 these simple rules at an early age, and I think

5 cont.

1 most of us can agree here today that living by
2 these rules can keep us all safe, healthy and
3 happy. High-level radioactive waste is not an
4 easy or simple material to clean up, put away,
5 clean up or return as those house rules suggest.
6 It's a severely toxic substance, however, that
7 does require much respect and understanding. It
8 only makes sense that anyone with that respect and
9 understanding would agree to stop creating this
10 fatal material until we have secured a way to deal
11 with the more than 33,000 metric tons of nuclear
12 waste we currently have created. So do these
13 rules apply to the nuclear industry? Yes, of
14 course they do. Why should an entity be exempt
15 just because they generate billions of dollars in
16 revenues?

17 For example, rule number one: if you dirty
18 it, clean it. Is it really fair that we the
19 taxpayers be expected to pay for cleaning up a
20 spill at a centralized interim storage facility or
21 for the health care for the affected people in the
22 community where the first mobile Chernobyl
23 accident occurs? Is the industry willing to take
24 that responsibility? If not, then they should
25 stop the creation of this high-level nuclear

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1 waste.

2 Rule number two: if you get it out, put it
3 back. Someone asked me just the other day, if we
4 take this uranium out of the earth, why can't we
5 just put it back? And that was such an incredible
6 thought. However, reactor fuel is a million times
7 more radioactive when it comes out of the reactor
8 site than when it came in. We all know the earth
9 can't handle such levels of radioactive material.
10 So if you can't put it back, don't take it out.

11 Number three: if you lose it, find it. This
12 brings up an interesting point. [If DOE decides to
13 transport this more than 33,000 metric tons of
14 radioactive waste, what happens if one cask is
15 missing or if for some reason it never reaches its
16 destination? Who then is responsible, and who's
17 going to spend every waking moment searching until
18 they find it? Who will take that responsibility?
19 Maybe DOE should consider leaving it where it is
20 for now, highly visible for all to see and to be
21 aware of or to beware of.]

22 Number four: if you drop it, pick it up.
23 For some of us less informed about the technical
24 aspects of moving these packages of high-level
25 radioactive waste around, this is a tricky rule.

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I understand that the industry has discovered a safe way to load the casks onto the train and truck beds for transport, but can you tell me what is the plan when one of these casks drops to the ground during a train wreck or when a truck overturns? I'd like to know that answer and what exactly the protocol is for such an event. If there is no state-established protocol, may I suggest you leave it, again, where it is?

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Number five: if you open it, close it. Some cans of worms are pretty difficult to close, once opened. Nuclear energy certainly has opened one of those cans of worms. Some smooth talking corporate big wig a few years back sold DOE on a really big can of worms when they convinced everyone that nuclear energy was the cleanest energy available. I'm sorry for that, I really am. I've bought a few cans of worms in my lifetime, as some of my friends can tell you. And it's tough, but I've managed to put lids on them at this point. And someone has to put a close to this desecration of the earth and its people. Someone like DOE and the industry, working together, must close the lid, stop production, put more funding into research and development to the

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solution of the waste challenges instead of creating more.

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MR. LAWSON: Excuse me. You have a little less than 30 seconds left, and I'm sure you have six more to go. So --

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MS. CITRON: Can I do it?

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MR. LAWSON: Go ahead, go ahead.

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MS. CITRON: Number six: if you turn it on, turn it off. How many of us have heard our dads, for years, telling us to turn the lights off, a good rule for conserving energy? Teaching consumers to conserve energy would be much more efficient than operating 103 nuclear power plants. In Georgia, approximately 20 percent of our electricity generated comes from nuclear power plants -- a small number, considering the amount of waste generated. How about turning the nuclear power plants off and encouraging the consumer to use less energy? Or, better yet, offer tax breaks to those who use alternative energy sources or who use less energy.

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Number seven: if you borrow it, return it. Has the federal government borrowed land from the native Americans for uranium mining and low-level waste dumps? Then, when the native American

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1 Indians asked for the use of their land for sacred
2 ceremonies, they were denied access. Can we return
3 something after it's been raped and polluted, and
4 still call it sacred? Is the nuclear industry
5 capable of understanding the term "sacred"? I was
6 taught that if you borrow something, return it
7 cleaner than it was when you borrowed it. What a
8 wonderful and considerate action that would be on
9 the part of the federal government in relationship
10 to the native American reservation land-use
11 agreement.

12 Number eight: if you move it, put it back.

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13 What if DOE decides to move all of the high-level
14 waste along with low-level military and
15 miscellaneous radioactive waste to Yucca Mountain
16 and then someone says, "Oops, not going to work,
17 too many fault lines, too close to the water, not
18 a good idea after all"? That's not the time to
19 decide on-site storage was a good idea after all.
20 Once it's moved, it will not be put back. Please
21 consider leaving it on site until a safe site is
22 found.

23 If you break it, replace it. The biggest
24 break I see in all of this is the break in the
25 trust of the American people. For so many years

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1 the American public has depended on the government
2 to protect our inalienable rights to life, liberty
3 and the pursuit of happiness. It's a struggle to
4 pursue happiness when so many people suffer at the
5 mercy of radioactive pollution. Cancer victims are
4 6 turning up in droves everywhere you turn. [There's
7 an obvious parallel between radiation exposure and
8 the incidence of cancer. How can we trust DOE's
9 standards of exposure when they're set so low,
10 when standards are changed to make Yucca Mountain
11 okay, and those same standards are set at one
12 death related to cancer , i.e., radiation
13 exposure, to one thousand, as opposed to the
14 previous one in a million? That one human being
15 in a thousand has lost the most precious
16 inalienable right of all, the right to his or her
17 life. Can you as a DOE employee help to replace
18 that trust, not with propaganda but with changes
19 in how you set your standards? You can, and you
20 can set the standards at one in a million or at
21 zero.]

22 MR. LAWSON: Can I ask you -- I hate to do
23 this, because you're doing such a fine job. But
24 if you could summarize some of those other
25 comments or if you'd like to come back afterwards

1 and finish, I'd love to hear them.

2 MS. CITRON: I have two more.

3 MR. LAWSON: Okay.

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4 MS. CITRON: [If it howls, feed it. Nuclear
5 energy howled years ago, the nuclear industry did;
6 and the government gave them billions of dollars.
7 And now the people are howling for answers to the
8 problems, and it's time to feed the people.]

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9 If it cries, love it. Has your child ever
10 come to you as a parent, crying because he fell
11 and hurt his knee or a teenaged daughter comes
12 home crying after breaking up with her boyfriend
13 or your brother or sister comes to you because he
14 or she just found out they have cancer of the
15 lungs or the spine or the lymph nodes or the
16 stomach or the bones or the larynx or the eyes?
17 They came to you and they wanted love and
18 compassion; that's all. As a nurse I see more and
19 more families affected by cancer every day. They
20 survive together, with a strong faith and a love
21 for life. I've seen entire families go through
22 lifestyle changes in hopes that that cancer would
23 have less of a chance to eat away at their life.
24 The earth is crying now, crying because she wants
25 love and compassion, crying because we've

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forgotten how beautiful she is and how vulnerable
her water, rocks, soil and air are. If you value
it, care for it.