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MS. COLBURN: Hi. For the

22

record, my name is Michelle Colburn, C-O-L-B-U-R-N.

/

1 MR. LAWSON: Sorry about that.

2 MS. COLBURN: That is all  
3 right. I have bad handwriting.

4 I am here today as an issue coordinator on  
5 nuclear energy and weapons for the D.C. Statehood  
6 Green Party. I reside in Washington, D.C. and I'm a  
7 native Washingtonian. I am also a working mom. I'm  
8 also old enough to be included in the duck-and-cover  
9 generation and I remember those years very well.

1 10 I'm here to add another voice to the many  
11 who have spoken today and to reiterate and  
12 underscore what an unsafe proposal for nuclear waste  
13 transport and storage this is. It is quite simply a  
14 dangerous plan, fraught with risks for accidents,  
15 which this environmental impact statement seems to  
16 euphemistically refer to as environmental impact.  
17 In other words, risks for accidents seem to be  
18 referred to in a brilliant PR move as environmental  
19 impact.

2... 20 Firstly, the possible routes, which could  
21 run as long as 2,000 miles from 77 reactors around  
22 the nation to Nevada, could run through some 43

2 cont.

1 states and pass through or near a potential  
2 population of 50 million Americans who live on or  
3 near these routes. We are talking about urban,  
4 suburban and rural people as well as livestock and  
5 other animals which could be affected by a nuclear  
6 transport disaster. The potential for exposing so  
7 many people to such a risk is unthinkable.

8           When those of us in this metropolitan area  
9 alone see and experience the effects of jackknifed  
10 trucks on the Washington Beltway, which is Route  
11 495 -- I believe it was mentioned previously -- and  
12 at the Mixing Bowl in nearby Virginia and train  
13 derailments and wrecks make headlines, news each and  
14 every year, nationally and locally, how can we trust  
15 a plan like this one? Experience and history  
16 confirm that human error, mechanical failure,  
17 terrorism and nearly any combination of these  
18 factors will cause a disaster along such routes.

3...

19           Secondly, regarding the site itself, it is  
20 geologically unstable and I'm sure that that has  
21 been addressed in testimony previously. Groundwater  
22 has been discussed, will eventually become affected,

3 cont. 1 and, to top all of this off, [the site is located on  
2 American Indian lands.

3 The scenario smacks of not in my backyard,  
4 and to single out the people of Nevada and the  
5 Western Shoshone Indians is morally wrong. I  
6 believe the terms "environmental racism" clearly  
7 apply to this situation. Now the same government  
8 which conquered and took land, then returned some  
9 wants to take some back to dump the most dangerous  
10 waste known to humankind. This is reprehensible.]

4 [11 Finally, all containment vessels and  
12 structures over time eventually decompose and leak.  
13 Radioactive waste, with a shelf life of thousands of  
14 years, requires the most well-thought-through plan  
15 people can come up with. We know from previous  
16 experience.

17 The deteriorated aftermath of this project  
18 may happen long after the creators of this proposal  
19 are dead, but there our legacy of irresponsibility  
20 will be left behind for future generations. It is  
21 time to take responsibility for this mess and come  
22 up with a rational creative and well-thought-through

4 cont.

1 plan because this one looks like a quintessential  
2 quick fix given the gravity of this issue.

5

3 With all of its potential for risk, it is  
4 unacceptable. It needs to go back to the drawing  
5 board, and if it doesn't, perhaps its authors would  
6 like to sign onto it as a 21st century declaration  
7 of responsibility, with their names as clear as day  
8 so that future generations will know who to blame.

9 Additionally, perhaps the authors of this  
10 plan would like to move out to Nevada and live with  
11 their creation. Relocation expenses will be  
12 provided. Any takers?

13 MR. LAWSON: Thank you. Our  
14 next speaker is Brian O'Connell. Mr. O'Connell is  
15 the last person that I have on my list here --  
16 almost the last person that I have on my list here.