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GERI REDDEN

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MS. REDDEN: Good evening. First of all, let my apologize for the way I'm dressed. I had no intention of speaking tonight, but I can't restrain myself. My name is Geri Redden and I am a violence prevention specialist. That is to say that I have spent the past 25 years of my professional life studying and lecturing on the origins and effects of violence and solutions to violence.

1 [I can think of nothing more violent than the entire nuclear industry. The manufacture of nuclear weapons of mass destruction is the result of the patriarchal race to use the resources of our great country to win a contest. I call that contest "mine's bigger." My car can go faster than yours, my house costs more than yours, my nuclear weapons are more powerful than yours. In fact, my nuclear weapons are so powerful that we can now blow up the entire world. In fact, my nuclear weapons are so powerful that they will destroy whether or not we want them to, because we cannot destroy them.

Even though the nuclear waste of which we speak this evening is primarily from nuclear power plants, we still have the task of disposing of nuclear weapons. This hearing, as I see it, is simply an opportunity to help our citizens get used to nuclear waste rumbling through our lives. In my opinion, we ain't seen nothing yet when it comes to the disposition of nuclear waste.]

2 [My concern about the transportation of nuclear waste is based largely on a brief career that I had several years ago. I got a job selling railroad salvage, and while I only worked at that job for a few months, I clearly remember the enormous amount of salvage that we handled. One day I asked my boss whether our business was really based on railroad salvage or was this simply a way to push goods that some company wanted to sell cheap. I was assured that the items we sold were indeed railroad salvage items. At that time I was told that there was an average of 14 to 20 accidents per week in our catchment area which, I believe, was a two-state area. The public didn't hear about these accidents because they were not newsworthy; a crate falling off a flatcar when a car hit an uneven piece of track, a car being derailed in an unpopulated area or merchandise being damaged when one rail car slammed into another.

Since the rail tracks that run through our communities and neighborhoods are even older now and since other forms of transportation have become more popular than rail, leaving the railroad industry financially unhealthy, I cannot imagine that our rail system is in better shape now than it was then. And while the entire DOE may work hard to keep the initial nuclear load from having an accident, what about the future?

You know as well as I that while there is much ado about this initial train trip, the time will come when the transportation of nuclear waste will not even be a blip on our radar screen. Nuclear waste transported once will become an acceptable activity because after the first trip, rail transportation will have become considered an acceptable form of transportation for nuclear waste.]

3, 4 [I do not trust our government. I do not trust the nuclear industry.] [I do not believe that the indigenous peoples of Yucca Mountain deserve to be annihilated because someone realizes, too late, that perhaps that is not a good storage site.]
5 [Further, I am very disappointed to see that those who made the decisions to develop nuclear weapons and nuclear waste are not here to listen to our comments.] Thank you.