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3 SENATOR REID: My name is Harry Reid. I'm
4 Senator from the state of Nevada.
5 Governor Guinn, I appreciate your statement.
6 I appreciate your statement very much. But I received
7 a telephone call just before coming here of someone
8 that has attempted to attend this hearing, using that
9 term loosely. He said that he got there at 4:00. He
10 was told that he could testify sometime after midnight
11 tonight. He said people are already leaving. They had
12 to go through three security checks to get into the
13 building. I mean, what kind of a hearing is this? No
14 wonder people are frustrated with the process. No
15 wonder people are upset with government. If this is
16 how government treats its people, then this is a sad
17 commentary.
18 For too long, this is how the people of
19 Nevada have been treated by the Department of Energy.
20 This is not a fair hearing. This is unfair from the
21 very beginning. As Governor Guinn stated, we asked
22 that the comment period be extended for 60 days. We
23 got a curse -- course -- short letter back today from
24 the secretary saying he would allow us 15 days. What's
25 the rush? Well, you know, I think that the people of

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1 Nevada as Governor Guinn has said, have had about
2 enough of the proceedings with the Department of
3 Energy. I'm very, very disappointed, but we do not
4 have the Secretary of Energy in Las Vegas tonight so he
5 could speak to the people of Nevada. In addition to
6 what people have to say. I don't believe the President
7 Bush knows how the people of the state of Nevada are
8 being treated. I don't think he knows that the
9 Secretary graciously gave us another 15 days.
10 This congressional delegation is going to
11 contact the President and let him know how we've been
12 treated. This is not how we should be treated, and I
13 bet the President agrees with us.
14 I think that we have to understand that we
15 have lots of problems with nuclear waste, not the least
16 of which is the Department of Energy. The Department
17 of Energy refuses to recognize that the most difficult
18 issue we have facing the people of the state of Nevada
19 is transportation. But it's not just the people of the
20 state of Nevada. It's no longer going to be not in my
21 backyards. It's going to be in everybody's backyard.
22 Because 46 states will have this poisonous substance

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23 passing by their schools, their businesses, and their
24 bedrooms. On rails, and by trucks. But you note the
25 Department of Energy won't tell us what railways

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1 they're going to use or what highways they're going to
2 use. Why? Because they know that we'd have to have an
3 environmental impact statement. Which I don't think
4 they can get approved. And if they thought they could
5 get approved, they would have started the process a
6 long time ago.
7 I was listening to -- I was on a talk radio
8 program in Las Vegas today, and someone said, I've been
9 trying to get from the Department of Energy how they're
10 going to bring it to Nevada and they won't tell us.
11 They're not telling us, because they simply don't know.
12 We have problems with transportation. You need only
13 look at Baltimore, Maryland just a short distance from
14 where this Nevada congressional delegation's now
15 seated. We had for five days a full train held up in a
16 mile-and-a-half tunnel. City of Baltimore was closed
17 down basically for five days. This could have been
18 nuclear waste. A week later in West Wendover, Nevada,
19 we had a truck with low-level nuclear waste spilling

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20 stuff out. What if it had been high-level nuclear
21 waste? It wasn't, and we should be thankful for that.
22 For those people who are going to say, well, if we're
23 not going to put it in Nevada, where are we going to
24 put it, that's easy. Eminent scientists said leave it
25 where it is and --

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1 (APPLAUSE)
2 -- Department of Energy and the very powerful
3 nuclear energy industry around the country. It's
4 difficult for the public to comment. Why? Because
5 tonight we have three security checkpoints they have to
6 go through. One person, I repeat, said they would to
7 wait until after midnight to testify. And then we get
8 the commentator saying tonight, well, if you want to
9 wait and finish your statement later, come along after
10 everybody's finished and we'll let you have an extra
11 minute or two. We're also told if you don't want to
12 wait, talk to a Court Reporter. This is not who you
13 should be talking to. You should be talking to the
14 Secretary of the Department of Energy, so he can report
15 what is happening here. This is unfair. I think it's
16 the Nevada congressional delegation, in conjunction

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17 with Governor Guinn, are going to do everything within
18 our power to let the people of America know that this
19 is unfair what's happening in the state of Nevada. As
20 a congressional delegation, we all agree. It's my
21 pleasure to now introduce John Ensign, Senator from the
22 state of Nevada.