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4 MR. HERRERA: I think they know who I am,
5 thank you. Before I get into my statement, I'm the
6 Chairman of the Clark County Commissioners, Dario
7 Herrera, by the way.
8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Now I know. But I
9 didn't know until you told me.
10 MR. HERRERA: What follows is a formal
11 statement from the Board of County Commissioners. But
12 before I get into our evaluation of this evaluation of
13 the suitability of Yucca Mountain, I'd like to talk
14 about some of the things Myrna talked about.
15 First of all, we join with the State of
16 Nevada, the Governor, and our congressional delegation
17 asking for a 60-day extension of this public hearing so
18 that the folks who weren't able to be here tonight are
19 able to be here and give their testimony. But we
20 believe this evaluation is premature and at best
21 incomplete. It doesn't provide adequate basis for
22 consideration. The site recommendation by the
23 Secretary of Energy, the President, the Congress, the
24 United States, further, the absence of a final

25 environmental impact statement to consider the issues

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1 and the suitability evaluation we think puts the cart
2 before the horse. How can you decide whether or not
3 Yucca Mountain is safe if you haven't done the final
4 environmental impact statement? It seems a very
5 reasonable question to ask.
6 (APPLAUSE)
7 A year ago or so, the County Commission had
8 an opportunity to evaluate the draft EIS sent out by
9 the DOE. We identified a number of issues, not the
10 least of which was the transportation of nuclear waste
11 along Nevada's roads. Nothing in the EIS suggested the
12 population and the proximity of the population along
13 the beltway. Nothing in the EIS suggested the
14 proximity of residential communities to the beltway.
15 Nothing talked about the growth in population, nothing
16 mentioned the traffic on Spaghetti Bowl, on our
17 beltway, on I-15. None of that. Our comments were
18 submitted on February 15th, 2000. And rather than
19 getting a response from the DOE, what we got was a
20 letter saying that our comments, our concerns, have
21 been catalogued. No response. Other than your

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22 comments have been catalogued.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Stab you in the back.

24 MR. HERRERA: It's incredible to me that the

25 DOE really wants to pretend that they have Nevadans'

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1 interests at heart. Why they wouldn't take the time to

2 evaluate the comments that the Board of County

3 Commissioners, the City of Las Vegas, the City of North

4 Las Vegas, the City of Boulder City, took the time and

5 through our staff really tried to assess the impact

6 that this could have on the health and safety of

7 Nevadans, on the economy of Southern Nevada, and Nevada

8 as a whole, and quite frankly on the quality of life

9 that all of us have come to expect and I think deserve.

10 Now let me say this -- I am appalled at the arrogance

11 of the DOE. I am appalled --

12 (APPLAUSE)

13 I am appalled that our Secretary of Energy

14 would not take the time away from Washington, D.C. to

15 be with the Nevadans and face the people who he has to

16 face to make this decision.

17 (APPLAUSE)

18 Certainly it's easy for him to be sheltered

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19 in D.C. and say, you know what, it's the right thing to
20 do, but it's harder to be in this room, look these
21 people in the eye and say, that's the right thing to
22 do, when they know the sentiment in this room. Now I'm
23 not here to make a political speech. I'm not here to
24 make a political speech at all, but I am here to say
25 that the Clark County Commission, with Myrna Williams'

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1 leadership, with my leadership, with the leadership of
2 my colleagues, will do everything we can within our
3 power to make sure that your voices are heard. In
4 fact --
5 (APPLAUSE)
6 Myrna and I announced yesterday we're going
7 to dedicate $1 million to join with Governor Guinn's
8 efforts at the state level to provide legal challenges
9 to anything the DOE decides that is not based purely on
10 science.
11 (APPLAUSE)
12 Thank you. I want to take a moment to thank
13 all the Nevadans, and certainly the people from our
14 neighboring states, for taking time away from their
15 lives, from their family, from their work to be here

16 today. If the DOE doesn't value your comments, we

17 certainly do. And we want to make sure that your voice

18 is heard not only today, but before the decision is

19 made. Thank you very much.

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