

HARRY REID  
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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2803

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May 23, 2001

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President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing in regard to the recently released report by the National Energy Policy Development Group, "National Energy Policy". As you know, this report encourages an increase in the use of nuclear power. Despite tremendous effort, however, our nation still has not developed a sound science and policy program to deal with the existing waste. Although the report recommends using the "best science to provide a deep geologic repository for nuclear waste," no nation, including the United States, has found a suitable geologic repository to safely isolate the waste.

As you know, we are deeply concerned about this issue, because the only site being considered for a proposed repository is at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. This site would be located approximately 90 miles from Las Vegas, the largest city in Nevada and one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. In addition to being home to more than 1.3 million Nevadans, Las Vegas and its neighboring communities draw more than 30 million visitors each year. Nevada communities rely on the water resources below Yucca Mountain for drinking water, livestock production, and other agriculture activities. Radiation contamination of this groundwater or the surrounding environment would create an unacceptable human health risk and would threaten the tourism and recreation-based economy, which provides jobs and important tax revenue to Nevada and its communities.

We are concerned that the report's recommendation for more nuclear power production will lead to additional pressure to move forward on Yucca Mountain, despite the known scientific and public policy shortcomings. Because of these concerns, we cannot support:

- (1) the relicensing of existing nuclear power plants or the licensing of new nuclear power plants; or
- (2) the reauthorization of the Price-Anderson Act, a controversial Department of Energy and nuclear power industry liability program.

The continued prosperity of our nation depends upon an evolution in the way our nation produces and uses energy. We cannot support, however, any initiatives that increase the possibility that Yucca Mountain will become the repository for the nation's nuclear waste. We

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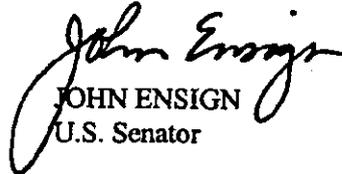
are willing to work with you to address these problems and make this energy report a document that all Americans can support.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



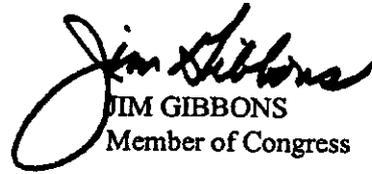
HARRY REID  
U.S. Senator



JOHN ENSIGN  
U.S. Senator



SHELLEY BERKLEY  
Member of Congress



JIM GIBBONS  
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