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MS. WICKER: I'm Andrea Wicker with U.S. Senator,
19 Harry Reid's office in Reno, Nevada. This is a letter from
20 the senator.

21 "Interested citizens of Nevada: I am here to
22 thank you and to challenge you. Thank you for taking the
23 time out of your busy schedules to come here to express your
24 views on the Department of Energy's plan to bring high-level
25 nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain.

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1 "I challenge you not to give up. Together we will
2 fight to stop the shipment of nuclear waste and its disposal
3 in Nevada.

4 "We are at a very critical time in the history of
5 the Yucca Mountain Project. The Department of Energy is
6 currently taking public comment on its preliminary site
7 suitability evaluation and plans to make a site
8 recommendation early next year.

9 "In light of current events and the new world in
10 which we live, we must continue to rally against Yucca
11 Mountain. As you all know, this process is flawed. We do
12 not have a final Environmental Impact Statement. We do not
13 have the finalized Nuclear Regulatory and Department of
14 Energy Siting Regulations.

15 "In the coming weeks and months, the fight over
16 Yucca Mountain will necessarily focus on the issue of
17 nuclear waste and transportation. I urge you and others who
18 oppose Yucca Mountain to take up the grave challenge of
19 protecting Americans from the unsafe shipment of deadly
20 radioactive waste. It is not necessary. It has not been
21 proven safe. It would be vulnerable to terrorist attack.
22 It is a very bad idea.

23 "For those of you who are here today, thank you
24 again for your hard work in protecting the public health and
25 our fragile environment."