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ROBERT MILLER: Okay. The
2 information that's being presented out
3 here -- I'll change the way I say it. The
4 information being presented out here is
5 primary designed to sell we citizens of the
6 State of Nevada on the safety of the
7 nuclear transport.
8 My comment is irregardless of how
9 much you're trying to convince us, John Doe
10 American Public has a perspective that he
11 associates with nuclear wastes and the
12 safety of that. The amount of public
13 relations that is being done by the
14 Department of Energy to make a sales pitch
15 within the State of Nevada is minor
16 compared to what the Nevada -- State of
17 Nevada is going to have to do to convince
18 the rest of the world that we are a safe
19 place to either locate their economic
20 plant, the tourism industry. Whatever
21 happens, Nevada is going to be just about a
22 taboo state because everybody associates --
23 is going to associate Nevada with nuclear
24 wastes.
25 And it's a perspective problem that
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1 is going to be worldwide. And you cannot
2 avoid that without a tremendous advertising
3 program, and I'm sure you're not going to
4 be able to convince them anyway.
5 In the case of transportation
6 issues, I attended a Senate -- a Nevada
7 State Senate hearing on transportation of
8 nuclear waste. We're talking about 35
9 trainloads a month or in excess of seven
10 truckloads per day. On the current route
11 if it comes across Interstate 80 to
12 Wendover, Nevada, and goes right through
13 the middle of Wendover and comes down 93,
14 comes right through Ely, down US6, through
15 Tonapah, right through the middle of
16 Tonapah down to Yucca Mountain.
17 At this point in time, there's darn
18 little in that transportation part of the
19 EIS that even pretends to address the issue
20 of transportation.

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21 In the EIS they have several rail
22 routes that they have contemplated. Those
23 rail routes were contemplated ten years
24 ago. They have changed with those rail
25 routes. There are other rail routes that
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1 are coming available that would keep the
2 nuclear waste out of the small cities of
3 rural Nevada, and they have to be added and
4 looked at.
5 The EIS has to be a document that's
6 flexible enough to change with the times.
7 As was brought up from the Ely Daily Times,
8 terrorist activities has just put a whole
9 new life on everything, and that needs to
10 be addressed in the EIS, and I'm not sure
11 it's adequately addressed.
12 As far as the City of Ely is
13 concerned, any transportation of nuclear
14 waste through White Pine County, any
15 accident will probably be addressed by the
16 City of Ely Fire Department. There has to
17 be a multitude of dollars invested in
18 training and equipping the Ely Volunteer
19 Fire Department should any kind of spill or
20 transportation problem occur.
21 The City of Ely's water shed is
22 directly on the route. It is -- there's a
23 fence less than 30 feet from the highway
24 that will be used to transport nuclear
25 waste. That wasn't even addressed in the
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1 EIS. The City of Ely water shed was not
2 addressed in the EIS.
3 Let's see. I am at this time going
4 to stop these comments. My name is Bob
5 Miller. I'll the mayor of the City of Ely.
6 At this time I'll relinquish the floor. I
7 would like to have the floor again and read
8 into the record some comments from Governor
9 Kenny Guinn.

[Other commentors spoke, then Robert Miller spoke again.]

ROBERT MILLER: Again, I'm Bob
24 Miller. I'm doing this at the direct

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25 request of Governor Kenny C. Guinn,
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1 governor of the State of Nevada.
2 "Good afternoon. On behalf of
3 the citizens of the State of Nevada I
4 would like to welcome you here this
5 afternoon and hope my remarks and the
6 remarks of many concerned Nevadans
7 who will speak later will be taken in
8 the spirit of which they are
9 intended; that is, honest,
10 constructive, and impassioned public
11 input on an issue that is paramount
12 to the health and safety of every
13 Nevadan and every American whose
14 home, school, or place of business
15 sits along the proposed paths that
16 the deadliest substance on earth, if
17 the DOE has its way, will take
18 through Nevada.
19 "This debate is not new. As many
20 of you know, Nevada's fight to keep
21 the nuclear waste repository from
22 coming to Yucca Mountain has raged on
23 for nearly 20 years. Unlike many of
24 the policy battles that grip
25 Washington, however, this fight
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1 transcends party affiliations,
2 socio-economic classes, race or
3 gender, and galvanizes Nevadans from
4 every corner of this state in
5 opposition.
6 "Though the debate is not new, I
7 must say that recent developments,
8 those that bring us here this
9 afternoon, are quite alarming and
10 raise a number of new concerns. The
11 very purpose for this meeting is in
12 question. You have invited me and
13 many good people here this afternoon
14 so you and the Department of Energy
15 can gather public comment on
16 scientific evidence that is not
17 complete and has not been made
18 public.

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19 "Public comment in the absence of
20 this all-important evidence is
21 premature and grossly irresponsible.
22 Ladies and gentlemen, this is not the
23 way we do business in Nevada, and
24 certainly this is not the way
25 government should handle its affairs.
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1 "I'm very disappointed that you
2 have chosen to disregard essentially
3 all of my office's recommendations
4 and decided to hold these meetings
5 prematurely and over our reasonable
6 objections. We in Nevada will not
7 stand for it.
8 "Therefore, I would strongly
9 advise and today formally request you
10 schedule additional hearings over the
11 course of the coming months across
12 Nevada to give our citizens and our
13 elected leaders the fair and
14 appropriate chance to respond to your
15 completed findings. And I assure
16 you, my outrange at the lack of
17 protocol that has permeated this
18 process will be detailed in letters
19 directly to Secretary Abraham and the
20 President.
21 "It is my sincerest hope that you
22 recognize this error and your duty to
23 correct it. I don't have to remind
24 anyone here today that it was not
25 long ago that Nevadans and all
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1 Americans were assured that nuclear
2 testing was safe. It was less than
3 fifty years ago.
4 "Since that time, the DOE has
5 admitted that the aftermath of
6 testing of the hydrogen bomb at Yucca
7 Flats caused innocent Americans to
8 die and that cancer benefits should
9 be paid to the families of the dozens
10 of men and women who were
11 contaminated from the fallout from
12 nuclear testing.

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13 "I'm not talking about casualties
14 of war in some distant country. I am
15 talking about the small farmers in
16 neighboring Utah who tragically
17 suffered from contaminated nuclear
18 air. I'm talking about the Nevada
19 workers and their families who took
20 the government at their word and
21 trudged to and from the test site
22 every day with assurances that they
23 were not in harm's way. And I'm
24 talking about generations of
25 patriotic American families
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1 financially wiped out fighting cancer
2 while they awaited some word of
3 admission or assistance from their
4 government.
5 "The DOE pathetically only made
6 that admission just a few years ago,
7 and it came only after years of
8 denial and government red tape. And
9 just yesterday we learned for the
10 first time that germ warfare
11 testing -- imagine, germ warfare
12 testing -- was conducted at the same
13 test site without any knowledge
14 whatsoever by our other Congressional
15 delegation or my office, that would
16 be the Government's office.
17 "With a track record like this,
18 it is no wonder the Department of
19 Energy lacks credibility not only in
20 Nevada but also in our neighboring
21 states. Given the history, I trust
22 you can understand why I view this
23 proceeding as morally illegal, if not
24 technically so.
25 "It violates everything that we
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1 believe in as Americans. It
2 duplicates all that was wrong in the
3 past and gives credence to the
4 mistrust and cynicism harbored by so
5 many of our people.
6 "Our concerns are clear. This

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7 wonderful state has been ignored for
8 far too long. We demand fairness and
9 we demand accountability in this
10 process. We will not sit idly by and
11 let the Department of Energy run
12 roughshod over our citizens with
13 empty promises and bad science. We
14 did it once in good faith as proud
15 and loyal Americans, but sadly we did
16 not get back what we gave and so have
17 learned from past, and we are not
18 about to repeat it."
19 And those are the comments from the
20 Governor of the State of Nevada.

[Other commentors spoke, then Robert Miller spoke again.]

ROBERT MILLER: Probably the last
19 comment I'd like to make is as Mayor of the
20 City is of Ely, EIS stands for
21 Environmental Impact Statement. When you
22 look at the EIS, probably the -- the least
23 amount of pages are dedicated to economic
24 impact.
25 As somebody whose -- the economy of
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1 this area is near and dear to my heart and
2 everybody that is in this room from here.
3 And the devastating effect that the
4 transporting of nuclear waste allows our
5 county, our city, and our long-term
6 repository at Yucca Mountain, the economic
7 implications, they're not even coming close
8 to addressing it. They're not even coming
9 close to any kind of mitigations.
10 And I think if anything is
11 understated totally inadequate, it is the
12 economic impact of -- mitigation of
13 economic impact that's in the Environmental
14 Impact Statement. The Economic Impact
15 Statement is just totally inadequate. And
16 I'll let it go at that.