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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 1, 2001

SEP 0 2001

Honorable Spencer Abraham
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Abraham:

We respectfully request that you personally attend the currently scheduled September 5, 12, and 13, 2001 public hearings in southern Nevada on your possible recommendation to the President on the Yucca Mountain Site in Nevada for development as a spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste geologic repository. You should personally hear the concerns and comments of interested members of the public, local governments, and other affected parties on this very important decision which impacts all the citizens of Nevada.

Mr. Secretary, there is intense public interest and concern about the Yucca Mountain project. These hearings come at a critical juncture in the Yucca Mountain site recommendation process. Given the very serious nature of the decision that you are about to make and the impact that decision will have on Nevada, as well as the nation, we strongly believe that you should personally represent the Department at the hearings.

We look forward to your timely response to this request.

Sincerely,

HARRY REID
United States Senator

JOHN ENSIGN
United States Senate

JIM GIBBONS
United States Representative

SHELLEY BERKLEY
United States Representative

HR:jh