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September 17, 2001

Lake H. Barrett, Acting Director
Office of Civil Radioactive Waste Management
Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

SEP 26 2001

Re: Yucca Mountain

Dear Mr. Barrett:

Thank you for your letter of August 28, 2001. Please be advised that as a citizen of the United States and a taxpayer, I am not impressed that the government has expended \$6.7 billion studying Yucca Mountain. It occurs to me that has been a \$6.7 billion waste of federal tax money. There is no question in my mind but that the Department of Energy and the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management predetermined that Yucca Mountain was suitable for the deposit high level radioactive waste. This pre-determination was made years ago when Congress passed a law providing that only Yucca Mountain would be studied for suitability.

As a resident of the State of Nevada, I am very much opposed to having a nuclear repository within 100 miles of my home. I am also very concerned that the Department of Energy and other government bureaucratic offices continue to belittle the transportation issues. Transportation issues are of paramount importance since the Department of Energy clearly plans to route high level nuclear waste through downtown Las Vegas. This is completely irresponsible and demonstrates your lack of concern for the general welfare of the people of this nation.

The government can easily pass a new law rescinding its "legal obligation to begin accepting spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste", just as the government repeatedly changes the tax law. In my opinion, the President cannot fairly conclude that Yucca Mountain is a qualified site for the nuclear repository without demonstrating his hypocrisy. I therefore request the Secretary of the Department of Energy to not recommend Yucca Mountain as suitable for accepting radioactive waste.

I also believe that my recommendations are futile and will not be considered. I sincerely believe that the government is engaged in a folly which is designed not to determine the suitability of Yucca Mountain, but instead, to wear out the people of the

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State of Nevada. I am tired of this folly. I do not want nuclear waste being transported through downtown Las Vegas. I do not want a nuclear repository placed in the State of Nevada. I submit to you that the nuclear repository would be better suited to be placed in the home state of Dick Cheney, which is Wyoming. It is more centrally located and it is less populated than the State of Nevada. Please pass on my suggestions to Mr. Cheney.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark C. Hafner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "H".

MARK C. HAFER, ESQ.

MCH/emk