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To: The Members of the Board

The Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force is a public advocacy organization. We have been in existence for fifteen years and during that time our primary role has become one of participation in meetings held by federal agencies and oversight boards and commissions who consider issues regarding the proposed Yucca Mountain repository program. On behalf of the other public interest organizations, the Task Force provides a public voice and presence during these meetings and also is a source of information back to the grassroots.

Currently in Nevada there are three organizations that devote the majority of their time and resources to work involving Yucca Mountain and associated issues. They are: Citizen Alert, the Shundahai Network, and the Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force. In addition, there are several other groups in Nevada and many nationwide, who assist and support the efforts of these primary organizations. Because the proposed repository project at Yucca Mountain is so broad in scope, technically, socially, and politically, and of such overwhelming importance to the citizens of Nevada, the above mentioned groups have cooperatively coordinated their work.

I want to thank Chairman Cohon for his willingness to accommodate the requests for time and participation that I have made both for the Task Force and other individuals or group representatives. And we also greatly appreciate the generous recognition that members of the public or public interest organizations have received from all of the Board members. Several of us have often told you that this board is unique in your willingness to promote public involvement in this overwhelming program.

With site recommendation either started or looming close ahead, there will likely be more demands made on the Board and I know that there is a greater sense of urgency being felt by the public interest groups. The Task Force is spending a great deal of time writing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and working through the red tape involved in that process so that we can have access to information that has not been made available to us. Because we are the organization that performs the majority of the public's work in the bureaucratic world, we are experiencing an increasingly contentious atmosphere in our dealings with the agencies directly

involved with Yucca Mountain and the promulgators and enforcers of the applicable rules and regulations. With a vastly increased workload and funding provided strictly through the kindness of others, all public interest groups are fighting an uphill battle. It is for this reason that I am writing to thank you for your sensitivity to our situation. For years the Board has provided the only opportunity for the public or its representatives to verbally communicate, in a formal and accountable way with Yucca Mountain project representatives. That is extremely valuable and important to us.

Finally I want you to know that my requests for time and exchange of information during your meetings is not simply a personal exchange between myself and others. In any case where I am speaking only for myself I will make that clear. The public voice has long been absent from government and industry technical exchanges. Public access, though required is often not welcome. We are grateful to you for being the exception to the rule.

Yours truly,

Judy Treichel
Executive Director