



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD
1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910
Arlington, VA 22209

May 21, 2001

The Honorable Harry M. Reid
528 SHOB
Washington, DC 20510-2803

Dear Senator Reid:

Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (Board) members Norm Christensen and Debra Knopman join me in thanking you for finding time in your crowded schedule to meet with us on May 10. We were glad to have the opportunity to update you and your staff on the Board's public meeting held on May 8-9 in Arlington, Virginia, and on the Board's funding request for fiscal year (FY) 2002.

As we mentioned, the Board's funding request of \$3.1 million for FY 2002 is essentially the amount appropriated in FY 2001 (\$2.9 million) and an additional \$200,000 for transition activities associated with the likely appointment of up to five new Board members sometime during the coming fiscal year. Details of the Board's request have been forwarded to your subcommittee staff.

The Board very much appreciates that through the years you have had the foresight to recognize the importance of preserving a viable, completely independent Board whose sole mission is to review the validity of the Department of Energy's technical and scientific work at Yucca Mountain. The Board believes its role in the site evaluation process is helping ensure that policy-makers have the best possible scientific and technical information on which to base their decisions.

Thank you again for your courtesy and for taking time to meet with Dr. Christensen, Dr. Knopman, and me.

Sincerely,

Jared L. Cohon
Chairman