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**U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Commerce**
Room 2125, Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6115

February 3, 1999

Dr. Jared Cohon
Chairman
Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Suite 1300
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Dr. Cohon:

I am writing to confirm the invitation for you or your designee to testify before the Subcommittee on Energy and Power on February 10, 1999, at 10:30 a.m. in Room 2322 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The subject of the hearing will be H.R. 45, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1999.

I request that your testimony review the Department of Energy's December 1998 viability assessment and the progress the Department has made on characterization of the Yucca Mountain site. In addition, please provide the Board's views on H.R. 45, including specific comments on the legislation.

Following are important details concerning the preparation and presentation of your testimony.

The Form of Your Testimony. You are requested to submit a written statement which may be of any reasonable length and may contain supplemental materials; however, please be aware that the Committee cannot guarantee that supplemental material will be included in the printed hearing record. Your written statement should be typed, double spaced, and should include a one-page summary of the major points you wish to make. You will have an opportunity to present an oral summary of your testimony to the Subcommittee; to ensure sufficient time for Members to ask questions, your oral presentation should be limited to five minutes.

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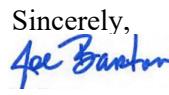
Pursuant to Rule 4(b)(1) of the Rules of the Commerce Committee (a copy of which is enclosed), I am requesting you to provide 75 copies of your written statement at least two working days in advance of your appearance. This will allow Members and staff the opportunity to review your testimony. On the day of the hearing, please bring an additional 75 copies of your testimony to satisfy the anticipated public interest in this hearing.

Rule 4(b)(1) of the Committee Rules also requires that, if you have the technological capability, you should also submit a copy of your testimony in electronic format, i.e., on a computer disk. The Committee will post your testimony to the Committee Website (at "<http://www.house.gov/commerce/welcome.html>") after the hearing. This will increase public access to your testimony and reduce the Committee's printing costs. Please be aware that submission of your testimony in electronic form does not relieve you of the obligation to submit the requested number of printed copies of your testimony. Additional guidelines for submission of testimony in electronic format are enclosed.

Please send the electronic and printed copies of your testimony required two working days before the hearing to the attention of the Legislative Clerk for the Committee on Commerce in 2323 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Publication of the Hearing Record. Rule XI, clause 2(e)(1)(A) of the Rules of the House requires the Committee to keep a written record of committee hearings which is a substantially verbatim account of remarks made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections. Your testimony, the transcript of the hearing, and any other material that the Subcommittee agrees to include in the hearing record (subject to space limitations) will be printed as a record of the hearing. You will receive a copy of the printed hearing record when it becomes available, usually 30 to 60 days after the date of the hearing.

If you have any questions concerning any aspect of your testimony, please contact Joe Kelliher of the Commerce Committee staff at (202) 226-2424.

Sincerely,

Joe Barton
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power

Enclosures: (1) Electronic Format Guidelines
(2) Rules for the Committee on Commerce