

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 7, 2015

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Dr. Ernest Moniz  
Secretary of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz:

I write to respectfully request that the Department of Energy (DOE) allow a technical specialist from the State of Nevada to participate in the April 9, 2015, bipartisan congressional visit to Yucca Mountain.

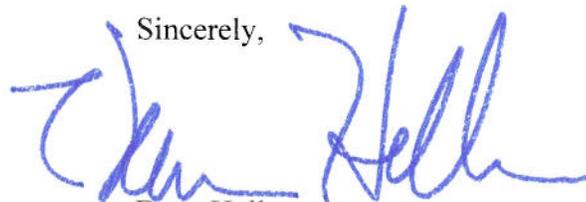
According to the House Energy and Commerce Committee's April 2, 2015 press release, the purpose of this exploratory visit is to "inform Congress' efforts to establish a workable, long-term nuclear waste solution." Including a technical specialist from the state on this tour is important to ensuring the attendees receive a comprehensive briefing on the complicated technical issues surrounding the site.

Unfortunately, in a letter dated April 6, 2015 to Mr. Robert Halstead, Executive Director of the State of Nevada's Agency for Nuclear Projects, House Energy and Commerce Environment and the Economy Subcommittee Chairman John Shimkus (R-IL) stated that "DOE's current itinerary for the tour is fully subscribed." Given that many of the congressional participants are traveling thousands of miles for this fact-finding visit, it would be a shame for those representatives to not receive a comprehensive briefing while in the state. According to recent media reports, the tour will include six Members of Congress, congressional aides, DOE chaperones, and a small number of news reporters. It is my hope the Department could accommodate one more participant who will serve a critical role in providing the visitors the State of Nevada's perspective on the flaws with a proposed nuclear waste repository.

Given that in his letter, Chairman Shimkus stated that he was eager to discuss this issue with the state and underscored the importance of a constructive dialogue between the federal, state, local, and tribal stakeholders, this request would seem consistent with the goals of his visit. As such, I request that the Department allow Chairman Shimkus to add a representative from the State of Nevada to the itinerary.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this request. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my Washington, DC office.

Sincerely,



Dean Heller  
U.S. Senator

CC: The Honorable John Shimkus, House Energy and Commerce Environment and the Economy Subcommittee Chairman