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MS. BINGAMAN: I'm Linda Bingaman. I'm the mayor
3 from the City of Carlin, and I'm reading on behalf of
4 Governor Kenny Guinn.

5 "On behalf of the citizens of the State of Nevada,
6 I would like to welcome you this afternoon and hope that my
7 remarks and the remarks of many concerned Nevadans who will
8 speak later will be taken in the spirit in which they're
9 intended; that is, honest, constructive and impassioned
10 public input on an issue that is paramount to the health and
11 safety of every Nevadan and every American whose home,
12 school or place of business sits along the proposed path
13 that the deadliest substance on earth, if the DOE has its
14 way, will take to Nevada.

15 "This debate is not new. As many of you know,
16 Nevada's fight to keep the nuclear waste repository from
17 coming to Yucca Mountain has raged on for nearly 20 years,
18 unlike many of the policy battles that grip Washington;
19 however, this fight transcends party affiliations,
20 socioeconomic classes, race or gender and galvanizes
21 Nevadans from every corner in this state in opposition.

22 "Though the debate is not new, I must say that
23 recent developments, those that bring us here tonight, are
24 quite alarming and raise a number of new concerns.

25 "The very purpose for this meeting is in question.

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1 You have invited me and many good people here tonight so
2 that, you, the Department of Energy, can gather public
3 comment on scientific evidence that is not complete and has
4 not been made public. Public comment in the absence of this
5 all-important evidence is premature and grossly
6 irresponsible.

7 "Ladies and gentlemen, this is not the way we do
8 business in Nevada, and certainly this is not the way the
9 government should handle its affairs.

10 "I am very disappointed that you have chosen to
11 disregard essentially all of my office's recommendations and
12 decided to hold these meetings prematurely and over our
13 reasonable objections.

14 "We in Nevada will not stand for it. Therefore, I
15 would strongly advise and today formally request you
16 schedule additional hearings over the course of the coming
17 months across Nevada to give our citizens and their elected
18 leaders a fair and appropriate chance to respond to your
19 completed findings.

20 "And I assure you my outrage at the lack of
21 protocol that has permeated this process will be detailed in

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22 letters directly to Secretary Abraham and the President. It
23 is my sincerest hope that you recognize this error and your
24 duty to correct it.

25 "I don't have to remind anyone here today that it

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1 was not long ago that Nevadans and all Americans were
2 assured that nuclear testing was safe. It was less than 50
3 years ago. Since that time, the DOE admitted that the
4 aftermath of the testing of the hydrogen bomb at Yucca Flats
5 caused innocent Americans to die and that cancer benefits
6 should be paid to the families of dozens of men and women
7 who were contaminated by the fallout from nuclear testing.

8 "I am not talking about casualties of war in some
9 distant country. I am talking about the small farmers in
10 neighboring Utah who, tragically, suffered from contaminated
11 nuclear air. I'm talking about the Nevada workers and their
12 families who took the government at its word and trudged to
13 and from the test site every day with assurances that they
14 were not in harm's way.

15 "And I'm talking about generations of patriotic
16 American families financially wiped out fighting cancer
17 while they awaited some word of admission or assistance from
18 their government. The DOE pathetically only made that
19 admission just a few years ago, and it came only after years
20 of denial and government red tape.

21 "And only yesterday we learned, for the first
22 time, germ warfare testing -- imagine, germ warfare testing
23 was conducted at the same test site without any knowledge
24 whatsoever by our own congressional delegation or my office.

25 "With a track record like this, it is no wonder

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1 the Department of Energy lacks credibility, not only in
2 Nevada, but in our neighboring states.

3 "Given the history, I trust you can understand why
4 I view this proceeding as morally illegal, if not
5 technically so. It violates everything we believe in as
6 Americans. It duplicates all that was wrong in the past and
7 gives credence to the mistrust and cynicisms harbored by so
8 many of our people.

9 "Our concerns are clear. This wonderful state has
10 been ignored for far too long. We demand fairness and we
11 demand accountability in this process. We will not sit idly
12 by and let the Department of Energy run roughshod over our
13 citizens with empty promises and bad science. We did it
14 once in good faith as proud and loyal Americans, but sadly,
15 we did not get back what we gave. And we have learned from

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16 our past and are not about to repeat it."

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