

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Joe Davis, 202/586-4940

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Abraham Praises Senate Energy Committee's Bipartisan Support of Yucca Mountain Resolution

WASHINGTON, DC – Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said today's action by the Senate Energy Committee to approve Yucca Mountain by a vote of 13 to 10 reflects the kind of bipartisan support in the Senate to proceed with the selection of Yucca Mountain and allow the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to make an informed and independent decision on the merits of the science, not the politics of the issue.

"The Senate must now decide whether to leave nuclear waste stranded at 131 sites in 39 states or allow the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to make the independent determination that Yucca Mountain is suitable to serve as a geological repository. The Energy Committee's bipartisan vote is an important step toward enhancing our national security and environmental protections," Abraham said.

-DOE-