

3 WILLIAM KERBY: Thank you. As an Esmeralda
4 County Commissioner, I've been the representative of the
5 county with the Department of Energy for almost three years
6 now. And I've looked into all aspects of the benefits of
7 movement and storage of high-level nuclear waste at
8 Yucca Mountain, including the benefits to the nation, the
9 state, and the rural communities.

10 And some of the things that -- before we get
11 into some of the items connected with the EIS that we
12 have here are that we have approximately 150 storage
13 sites nationwide in 38 states. Many of them are
14 vulnerable to events, okay.

15 [We have one place in 2,000 feet of bedrock 1
16 that we can store this material, and we have an
17 opportunity if we store the material there and we move
18 it there. I think it's up to about 150 metric tons that
19 they envision moving there once they get this program
20 started, if it ever does get started -- I guess I should
21 say that -- moving it there.

22 It gives us an opportunity to diversify our
23 economy here in Nevada by getting into the business of
24 exporting the technology of transmutation, reprocessing,
25 and recycling worldwide from a remote area. And it
1 gives us an opportunity to mitigate the problems we can
2 have with the dangers attributed to the sites spread all
3 over the country.

4 And if we don't do it, someone else is going
5 to do it. And 60 years from now, people are going to

6 look back and say what vision did these people have and
7 what gods did they serve to prevent this stuff from
8 being brought here and helping this area of the country
9 improve its economy?

10 Now, Nye County was kind enough to do a study
11 that indicated that the north-south route would bring
12 something on the low end of \$401 million to the 95
13 Corridor, as opposed to the \$21 million to the Caliente
14 Corridor.]

15 [Well, to me if it's not an issue of corridors 2
16 right now, I'd actually like to see both of them in
17 place myself. That way we wouldn't have to have any
18 competition. And the end result might be better for
19 Nevada anyway.

20 But getting down to some of the things that we
21 want to be concerned about here is that we have a
22 two-lane highway between Las Vegas and Reno essentially.
23 And there was some plans for interim storage, and they
24 would have been moving up to 160 trucks a month on the
25 highways, which would, you know, put our people at risk.

1 We have school busses, we have tourist
2 traffic, we have all kinds of things there. And we
3 really need a rail line if we're going to move this
4 stuff to Nevada.

5 So, in my opinion, the Final EIS should
6 include a through-going rail system running north and
7 south connecting to Yucca Mountain. The through-going
8 rail system would serve to eliminate the necessity for
9 rail shipments through the Las Vegas Valley, where the

10 government leaders are concerned about the effect
11 nuclear shipments may have on the tourism industry.

12 In a large sense, this through-going railroad
13 could interface with northern California and southern
14 California. And myself personally, I've talked to a
15 number of businesses that are situated in this area that
16 deal in raw materials, and they can't afford to ship
17 materials by truck, but they can by rail. And if you
18 take a look at the Nye County study, it gets into great
19 detail about the economic benefits to this area as a
20 byproduct of us having a rail system in place.]

21 [Considering the unknown costs and impacts of 3
22 the Caliente Route, the DOE needs to further examine the
23 Mina Rail Route, including further mitigation with the
24 Walker River Paiute Tribe and, also, further examine
25 alternative routes around the Walker River Paiute
1 Reservation. I'm going to put major emphasis on this.
2 Further examine alternative routes around the Walker
3 River Paiute Reservation. If they don't want it and
4 it's going to benefit Nevada and the nation and it's
5 going to come here, hey, just bypass the sovereign
6 nation and get it in place.]

7 I want to thank you for your time here tonight
8 and hope that I made an impression on you on the
9 importance of getting this rail system and getting this
10 EIS perfected. And I turned in my written comments
11 already. Thank you.