

4 DARREN DABODA: Good evening. My name is Darren
5 Daboda. [I'm the chairman of the Moapa Band of Paiutes. My
6 tribe strongly opposes the Yucca Mountain project. Our
7 elders have always had a world view, a universal view based
8 on everything, based on the stars. They were in the
9 cosmos. They were about our environment. They knew about
10 everything. They always thought very, very big, universal,
11 symbiotic.

12 We are built on ceremonies, and our tribes are
13 built on the understanding with the earth. We believe
14 our elders have kept our traditions, kept the dances,
15 kept the language, kept the cultures, because that's who
16 we are. We're cultures with important values, and we
17 have the instructions that are increasingly recognized
18 as important today.

19 As stewards of the land, we have an
20 understanding of the freedom and our responsibility as
21 caretakers and guardians of this earth. This is our
22 instructions given to our people to be responsible, to
23 take the responsibility to look out for the future of
24 our people.

25 We have to make decisions on behalf of our
1 generations coming, those that will be coming. We have
2 a responsibility to them to hold fast to our cultures,
3 to hang on to our land, to follow the elders who were
4 before us that knew everything and thought very big, to
5 rebuild our tribes.

6 There's a terrible history between our peoples

7 and the brother who came across the sea. And yet we are
8 here. We survived. This tells us that we have to
9 depend on our abilities to meet the issues of the time.
10 You know, none of us would be here if it weren't for our
11 elders and the trailblazers among our peoples.

12 If they weren't so quick on their feet that
13 they weren't able to think and problem solve, if they
14 weren't able to move at the right time and in the right
15 place, we wouldn't be here. And it is this skill that
16 demonstrates and will ensure our future for our tribes.

17 It is the skill to hear the old people, to
18 rebuild our tribes, and with pride, with the
19 understanding of our cultures, and with our sights set
20 on the long road. We always have been there. We're not
21 newly built.

22 We're falling back on the guidance of the
23 principles of the government given to us by the old
24 ones. We have to do things in new ways, but we have to
25 keep the principles of our ancestral ways, to continue
1 our tribe's strength into the next century.

2 We need to be intrepid but still good
3 listeners, looking for the resonance within our elders,
4 teaching and rebuilding architecture of our tribe to the
5 next contemporary problems to deal with contemporary
6 concerns.

7 Again, we need to be responsible, absolutely
8 responsible. This is the leaders -- this is what
9 leaders do today. So in saying this, we need to be
10 absolutely responsible for the future of everyone,

11 through the environment which affects each and every one
12 of us.

13 All the parties understanding cultural
14 differences and respecting and protect the air, water,
15 land, and our tribal culture properties, not for today
16 but for -- but for the future, working together for the
17 benefit of all mankind.] Thank you very much.