

1 MR. AKUTHOTA: Good afternoon. My
2 name is Nithin Akuthota. I'm deputy director
3 of the Energy Communities Alliance. The
4 Energy Communities Alliance is an organization
5 of local governments that are adjacent to or
6 impacted by Department of Energy activities.
7 Our board members include elected officials
8 and administrators from local governments
9 impacted by DOE sites. We are a non-profit
10 educational organization. Our mission is to
11 bring together DOE impacted communities in
12 order to share information, learn from each
13 other, and effectively address an increasingly
14 complex set of constituent, environmental,
15 regulatory, and economic development needs.

16 [ECA would like to state for the
17 record our organization's support for the
18 licensing and completion of the Yucca Mountain
19 repository project. As part of this support,
20 ECA believes that we need to do everything in
21 our power to represent our communities by
22 providing the oversight needed to protect the

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1 health, safety, economic well-being, and
2 quality of our residents, protect the
3 environment, ensure that the repository
4 operates safely and successfully, and ensure
5 that whatever transportation system is put in
6 place operates safely and serves to advance
7 opportunities for economic development
8 throughout the country.

9 Moreover, the Department of Energy
10 has made promises to other communities and
11 sites currently hosting high-level waste that
12 it will transport such waste offsite to a
13 permanent repository. These promises must be
14 met as opposed to having high-level waste
15 sitting at more than one hundred defense and
16 commercial sites across the country. It is
17 critical that DOE work with local governments
18 to develop a solution and ensure a path
19 forward on the Yucca Mountain project.

20 From ECA's perspective, we want to
21 ensure that the communities around the Yucca
22 Mountain repository can benefit positively

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1 from the activity at Yucca.] ECA intends on
2 submitting detailed written comments on the
3 additional issues raised by the supplemental
4 and rail EIS's on or before January 10th,
5 2008. We thank you for the opportunity to
6 testify at this hearing.

7 MR. BROWN: Thanks. Okay. Ian
8 Zabarte.

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