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December 5, 2001

The Honorable Jared L. Cohon  
Chair, U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board  
2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300  
Arlington, VA 22201

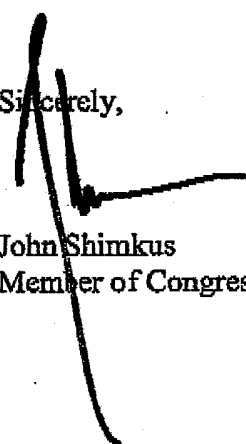
Dear Dr. Cohon:

First, I would like to thank you for the work you have been doing in Nevada to discuss the status of Yucca Mountain site characterization over the last few months. I have had the pleasure of visiting Yucca Mountain in the past and have seen the research and the science that has gone into studying whether this site would be an appropriate nuclear waste repository or not. As you may be aware, I am from the State of Illinois, which is home to the most nuclear power plants in the nation. So this issue is a concern to many in my state.

Second, I have a question that I was hoping you, or your staff, could answer for me. Are you aware of any technical issues or concerns applicable to the site recommendation phase of the Yucca Mountain Project, that directly and negatively impact human health and safety, that could not be mitigated prior to the closure of the repository, which under the current design would occur 100-300 years after its opening?

I look forward to hearing the answer to this question. If should have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or my staff, at your convenience.

Sincerely,



John Shimkus  
Member of Congress