

January 18, 2006

The Honorable Harry Reid
528 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid,

On behalf of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Public Citizen, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, U.S. PIRG, Environmental Working Group, Military Families Speak Out, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Clean Water Action, Nuclear Policy Research Institute, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Women's Action for New Directions, and Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, we thank you for your efforts and leadership working with the Utah delegation on the Utah Test and Training Range Protection Act. This legislation, and the efforts of all involved, mark a significant victory for Utahns, Nevadans, and all Americans who care about protecting the public from nuclear waste and preserving our wild places.

We realize that your work was instrumental in highlighting the dangers of nuclear waste storage and transportation, a common concern for states like Utah and Nevada that are threatened with the prospect of being forced to accept nuclear waste from across the country. The plan for Private Fuel Storage (PFS) and Yucca Mountain are virtually inseparable as clearly demonstrated in planning documents from PFS. Your efforts along with Utah's Congressional delegation have helped highlight the serious dangers states face from toxic nuclear waste.

We also deeply appreciate that your leadership has helped pave the way for a historic victory for Utah wilderness. Over twenty years have elapsed since Congress last passed Utah wilderness legislation. With the recent enactment of the FY2006 Defense Authorization bill, we were blessed with wilderness protection for nearly 100,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) public lands for the Cedar Mountain range. Importantly, this legislation shows that Utahns can come together to agree on a wilderness proposal that truly protects that state's deserving wilderness.

Again, we are extremely grateful for your help and leadership on the Utah Test and Training Range Protection Act.

Sincerely,

Scott Groene
Executive Director
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

Michele Boyd
Legislative Director
Public Citizen

Michael Mariotte
Executive Director
Nuclear Information and Resource Service

Suzanne Jones
Regional Director, Four Corners States Office
The Wilderness Society

Lawson LeGate
Senior Southwest Regional Representative
Sierra Club

Ken Cook
President
Environmental Working Group

Carah Ong
Washington DC Office Director
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Julie R. Enszer
Executive Director
Nuclear Policy Research Institute

Jim Riccio
Nuclear Policy Analyst
Greenpeace

Dr. Judith Johnsrud
Radiation Committee
Sierra Club

Bruce K. Gagnon
Coordinator
Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear
Power in Space

Anna Aurillo
Legislative Director
U.S.PIRG

Jeffrey A. McKenzie
Co-founder
Military Families Speak Out

Lynn Thorp
National Campaigns Coordinator
Clean Water Action

Erich Pica
Director, Domestic Campaigns
Friends of the Earth

Robert K. Musil, Ph.D, M.P.H.
Executive Director and CEO
Physicians for Social Responsibility

Susan Shaer
Executive Director
Women's Action for New Directions