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**Heller Works with Senate Armed Services Committee to Successfully Keep Yucca Mountain Out of Reconciled Defense Bill**

*House Version of NDAA Included $30 Million to Store Defense Nuclear Waste at Yucca Mountain, Senate Version Included $0*

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) announced that he successfully worked with the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services to ensure that the joint conference committee report on the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2019 excluded the $30 million to store defense nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain that was included in the version passed by the U.S. House of Representatives. Heller previously worked with Chairman John McCain (R-AZ) and Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK), a senior member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services, to [keep an authorization of funding to revive Yucca Mountain out of the U.S. Senate’s version of the NDAA](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/d09bdc40-7457-44a1-9828-179b360443a6/04132018%20Heller%20Letter%20Re%202019%20NDAA.pdf). That letter is available [HERE](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/d09bdc40-7457-44a1-9828-179b360443a6/04132018%20Heller%20Letter%20Re%202019%20NDAA.pdf). Last month, Heller [urged](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/b837388d-a75b-4334-8cdd-59434e0ac769/Heller%20Letter%20Re%202019%20NDAA%20Conference%20Report.pdf) Chairman McCain to maintain his position of not authorizing funding for Yucca Mountain throughout NDAA conference negotiations. That letter is available [HERE](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/b837388d-a75b-4334-8cdd-59434e0ac769/Heller%20Letter%20Re%202019%20NDAA%20Conference%20Report.pdf).

On May 24, 2018, the U.S. House of Representatives approved its version of the NDAA with $30 million authorized to revive Yucca Mountain, and on June 18th, Heller announced that he [successfully ensured that the U.S. Senate’s version of the bill excluded the $30 million to store defense nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=EBEE6498-492C-4E18-ACED-D32A8E90B8F4https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=EBEE6498-492C-4E18-ACED-D32A8E90B8F4). On April 13, 2018, Heller contacted U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain (R-AZ) and [urged him to exclude any language that authorizes funding for Yucca Mountain from the NDAA](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/d09bdc40-7457-44a1-9828-179b360443a6/04132018%20Heller%20Letter%20Re%202019%20NDAA.pdf). Heller wrote Chairman McCain last month asking him to maintain that position in the final conference report. The joint conference committee, which was tasked with reconciling the two versions of the defense bill, released its report today.

“Once again, I was able to work to kill efforts in the U.S. House of Representatives to bring nuclear waste to Nevada,” **said Heller.** “I’m pleased I was able to work with Chairman McCain and Senator Jim Inhofe, a senior member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services, to successfully ensure that our bill did not authorize a single dollar for Yucca Mountain, and I thank Chairman McCain for maintaining this position throughout the conference negotiations. While this is progress, I still have more work to do to ensure that Yucca Mountain never sees the light of day and I’m committed to doing everything that I can to make sure of it.”

**Background: Timeline of Heller’s previous work to stop Yucca Mountain**:

* On July 6, 2018, [Heller contacted U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain (R-AZ) about maintaining the position of not authorizing funding for Yucca Mountain in the final conference report for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/b837388d-a75b-4334-8cdd-59434e0ac769/Heller%20Letter%20Re%202019%20NDAA%20Conference%20Report.pdf)
* On July 2, 2018, Heller [wrote U.S. Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) and U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) thanking them for not funding Yucca Mountain in the minibus and urging them not to fund any activities related to Yucca Mountain in the conference report](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/30db6296-34b6-4fa6-b337-89892cdf290c/Heller%20Letter%20to%20Shelby%20and%20Alexander%20Re%20Yucca%20in%20Conference.pdf).
* On April 13, 2018, Heller contacted U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain (R-AZ) and [urged him to exclude any language that authorizes funding for Yucca Mountain from the National Defense Authorization Act](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/d09bdc40-7457-44a1-9828-179b360443a6/04132018%20Heller%20Letter%20Re%202019%20NDAA.pdf).
* On April 13, 2018, Heller urged U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) [not to fund the DOE budget request for $120 million to revive Yucca Mountain](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/92c27acf-2dd3-40a5-827c-9c899f508110/Heller%20Letter%20Re%202019%20Yucca%20Approps.pdf).
* On April 24, 2018 in a [letter submitted to Subcommittee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/61a84717-94bb-4a58-8bd9-b33220938991/04242018%20Heller%20Letter%20Re%202019%20NRC%20Approps.pdf), Heller expressed his strong opposition to funding the NRC and [said he remains staunchly opposed](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=CAD35955-75F3-4D06-BBCF-129FF2831987) to any federal efforts to revive Yucca Mountain.
* On March 21, 2018 [during a U.S. Senate Banking Committee hearing with Office of Management](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLIy7xCdfFY&feature=youtu.be) and Budget (OMB) Director Mick Mulvaney, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV[) highlighted the Administration’s reckless and fiscally irresponsible pursuit of Yucca Mountain](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=6098717A-768B-43D4-BE9F-2E467AF68B71), stating that the federal government has already wasted billions of dollars on the project. When asked about alternative solutions to the country’s nuclear waste problem, Director Mulvaney told Heller that he is open-minded to other resolutions and suggested they work together to find one.
* On March 20, 2018 [in a letter](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/e7c73b11-9000-4ebb-9382-8426815ce4ea/03202018%20Heller%20Letter%20to%20Murkowski%20Re%20Yucca%20Budget%20Request%20(updated).pdf)submitted to Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Heller argued that Yucca Mountain poses numerous health and safety risks to the people of southern Nevada and potentially catastrophic financial risks to the state’s tourism economy. [He urged them not to fund the $120 million to restart the repository licensing process for Yucca Mountain](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=60E8E3B3-90E7-4D35-88F4-F36223C58009).
* On March 20, 2018 Heller discussed DOE’s budget request with Secretary Perry at a U.S. Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation hearing. [Heller noted that the $120 million requested to fund licensing activities at Yucca Mountain was denied last year and that it will be denied again this year](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=6098717A-768B-43D4-BE9F-2E467AF68B71).
* On September 26, 2017, Heller [argued that Yucca Mountain is not the solution to our country’s nuclear waste problem in written testimony submitted to the U.S. House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on the Interior, Energy, and Environment](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=76FF9B6A-5410-4035-BB6B-0D7B300A013F).
* On July 20, 2017, the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee advanced the Senate’s Energy and Water Appropriations bill and [unlike the version that passed the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, the Senate bill did not include funding for Yucca Mountain](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=691E36A0-8C66-4C9F-B730-01AACAEA879A).
* On July 28, 2017, [the Senate’s Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee advanced a bill that did not include the $120 million requested by the Department of Energy (DOE) to revive Yucca Mountain](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2017/7/key-senate-panel-excludes-yucca-mountain-from-appropriations-bill).
* On June 21, 2017, [Heller submitted testimony to the U.S. Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=6E1CC11F-3413-4DCE-9E13-632E509919A7)expressing his vehement opposition to the Yucca Mountain proposal.
* On June 20, 2017, Heller [reacted to Secretary Perry’s comments at a U.S. Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee hearing](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=BDB21D33-D4F5-4071-9F0B-BEF1E725D3DC), characterizing them as a “blatant disregard for the state of Nevada.”
* On June 6, 2017, Heller [expressed concern after the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources voted to advance Dan Brouillette’s nomination](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=A13C6633-DE62-4EB3-AC3E-05B360E709EA) for the deputy secretary position at the Department of Energy (DOE), the federal agency that has jurisdiction over the licensing activities at Yucca Mountain.
* On May 26, 2017, Heller [reacted to the Government Accountability Office’s (GAO) report detailing the lengthy and costly Yucca Mountain](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=26BB0F72-082D-4F72-90E9-71F5D1268D01) licensing process.
* On May 25, 2017, Heller [spoke on the U.S. Senate floor and reiterated his concern with the President’s 2018 Fiscal Year budget request that included $120 million to restart the licensing activities for Yucca Mountain](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=05305C55-2A3F-4DD6-8C6B-B5A16A72540F).
* On May 18, 2017, [Heller spoke on the U.S. Senate floor to highlight the threat that Yucca Mountain poses not only to Nevada, but the entire country](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=AF7361C6-9C4E-4573-A18C-D63A21893090).
* On May 12, 2017, [Heller spoke on the U.S. Senate floor to highlight Yucca Mountain’s threat to the Las Vegas economy](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/videos?ID=8029B54A-CD1C-48D3-BABE-7200C312E9AC).
* On April 27, 2017, [Heller reaffirmed his staunch opposition to relicensing the Yucca Mountain nuclear repository to Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=8A6B346E-5B6A-4442-B1F0-3DC17A960C85).
* On April 26, 2017, [Heller testified before a U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment hearing](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/videos?ID=B6E5E92F-B192-4670-8DC8-44B025E09B84) on legislation to revive Yucca Mountain.
* On March 29, 2017, [Heller urged the Administration to drop its Yucca Mountain proposal](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/videos?ID=F00C6518-78A4-475B-9548-0D89EA5370E6), included in its FY2018 budget request.
* On March 16, 2017, [Heller released a statement on the Administration’s FY2018 budget request](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=0133E3F8-7845-46DA-889B-0E8ACC7A094F), which included a proposal to revive Yucca Mountain.

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