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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Neal A. Patel](mailto:neal_patel@heller.senate.gov) | | July 7, 2016 | 202-224-6244 |   **Heller on Yucca: “Solution is not forcing burden on Nevada.”**  **(Washington, DC) –** Today, United States Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) sent the following letter to United States House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy Chairman John Shimkus (R-IL). The letter comes as the subcommittee held a [hearing](https://energycommerce.house.gov/hearings-and-votes/hearings/federal-state-and-local-agreements-and-associated-benefits-spent-nuclear) where Nevada stakeholders were set to testify on the defunct Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository. Heller reiterated his opposition to the defunct Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository and urged Shimkus to work with him to find other sites.  A PDF copy of the letter can be found [here](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/4d8a55ef-fcdd-47ff-a1d4-f77a252191a9/07072016%20Heller%20Letter%20to%20Shimkus%20on%20Nuclear%20Waste%20Disposal.pdf).  **Full text of letter to Chairman Shimkus:**  The Honorable John Shimkus  Chairman  Energy and Commerce Subcommittee  on Environment and the Economy  2125 Rayburn House Office BuildingWashington, D.C. 20515  Dear Chairman Shimkus:  Today, as the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy holds yet another hearing focused on spent nuclear fuel disposal, I write to reiterate my opposition to the defunct Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository and urge you to work with me on viable solutions to this important problem plaguing our nation.  While I understand that you disagree with me on the issue of Yucca Mountain, we are in agreement that it is in the best interest of our nation that a program to dispose and store used nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste from civilian nuclear power generation, defense, national security and other activities is implemented as soon as possible. I fully appreciate the importance to Illinois, which is home to more nuclear power plants than any other state in the nation, that progress is made. With that said, that solution is not forcing that burden on Nevada, a state that has never had a nuclear power plant.  Last year, the Department of Energy (DOE) began a consent-based siting initiative to site nuclear waste storage and disposal facilities. Identifying communities willing to host a long-term repository, rather than forcing it upon states that have outright opposed such a site, is the only viable long-term solution to our nation’s nuclear waste problem. It is in the best interest of our nation that your subcommittee, and the Congress as a whole, focus on that consent-based process.  Our nation cannot fully move forward with viable sustainable solutions for spent nuclear fuel and defense high-level waste until the Congress moves past Yucca Mountain. I hope you will join me in supporting DOE’s consent-based approach so that we can progress towards viable long-term solutions for our nation’s spent nuclear fuel.  Sincerely,  Dean Heller  United States Senator  ###  [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_fb.png](http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Senator-Dean-Heller/325751330177) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_tw.png](http://twitter.com/SenDeanHeller) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_yt.png](http://www.youtube.com/user/SenDeanHeller) |