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| **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:**[Megan Taylor](mailto:Megan_Taylor@heller.senate.gov) |
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**Heller Applauds 5th Circuit Court of Appeals Dismissal of Texas Case Involving Yucca Mountain**

*Heller Has Repeatedly Blocked Federal Funding, U.S. House Efforts to Resuscitate Nuclear Waste Repository*

**LAS VEGAS**– U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) today applauded a decision made by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit Court that grants Nevada’s motion to dismiss the State of Texas’ petition to compel action on Yucca Mountain.   
 [The news arrives shortly after Heller successfully ensured that the U.S. Senate’s version of the NDAA 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-D32A8E90B8F4), and that he worked with the [Senate Appropriations Committee to make sure that the Energy and Water Appropriations bill did not include any funding for Yucca Mountain](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=26B7A8B3-58BD-4464-B39D-CC588587B3F5). Additionally, earlier this year, Heller blocked taxpayer funds in the FY2018 omnibus spending measure [to support and fund licensing activities at the Yucca Mountain nuclear repository](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=526CDC21-D0DB-40ED-AF19-7A3A737E9B98).   
  
“A nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain has the potential to inflict immeasurable harm on the health and safety of Nevadans and our economy, and that’s why I’m pleased with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals’ decision today to grant Nevada’s motion to dismiss,” **said Heller.** “I applaud Governor Sandoval and Attorney General Adam Laxalt for their diligent work to ensure that Nevada’s voice is heard to stop this failed project and I’ll continue to work with them both to kill any attempts to resuscitate Yucca Mountain.”  
  
**Heller’s previous work to stop Yucca Mountain from being funded**:

* On April 13, 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, [Heller urged U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/92c27acf-2dd3-40a5-827c-9c899f508110/Heller%20Letter%20Re%202019%20Yucca%20Approps.pdf) not to fund the DOE budget request for $120 million to revive Yucca Mountain.

* 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.