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**Heller Applauds Heck for Efforts to Keep Yucca Closed**

*Urges NV delegation to “work together and use any arrow in our quiver to stop the opening of Yucca Mountain”*

**(Washington, D.C.)** – Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) issued the following statement after the House of Representatives rejected an amendment offered by U.S. Representative Joe Heck (NV-3) to redirect funds away from Yucca Mountain:

“Tonight, I am deeply disappointed in the House of Representatives. Democrats and Republicans joined forces to try to keep Yucca Mountain alive. Congressman Heck and the rest of the Nevada House delegation should be applauded for putting partisanship aside and working together to keep Yucca Mountain closed.

"Nevadans need no further reminder than tonight’s vote that members of the U.S. House of Representatives, regardless of party affiliation, seek to dump their nuclear waste in Nevada. It is important for the delegation to continue to work together and use any arrow in our quiver to stop the opening of Yucca Mountain, including the filibuster rules of the U.S Senate,” said Senator Dean Heller.

Rep. Heck offered the amendment to the annual Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

Earlier this month, Senator Heller expressed his concern that the proposed changing of the Senate rules on filibuster reform could put the closing of Yucca Mountain in danger. Senators [raised the issue on the Senate floor](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yDccWAsLzE&feature=youtu.be), noting that if minority rights of the Senate are changed or the 60–vote threshold for nominations is removed, then the same principle could apply elsewhere with legislation. Without a 60-vote threshold, the current policies towards Yucca Mountain could be revisited.

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