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**Heller Encourages Public Comment on Yucca Mountain***Nevada Has The Opportunity To Tell Washington No*

**Washington, D.C.** – U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) is encouraging Nevadans to speak out against the danger of bringing nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is opening a 60-day window today for public comment from local governments, tribes and those familiar with the project.

“Traveling across the state, I continue to hear concerns that Yucca Mountain would damage our economy, pose serious transportation risks, and just continue to shove more taxpayer dollars down a failed Washington proposal,” **said Heller.** “I am encouraging all Nevadans to make their voice heard and let those in Washington know: Yucca Mountain is dead.”

Last week, [Heller slammed the Government Accountability Office’s (GAO)](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ContentRecord_id=26BB0F72-082D-4F72-90E9-71F5D1268D01) report on Yucca Mountain as evidence that the program will be lengthy and costly. Earlier in the week, [Heller argued on the Senate floor that Yucca Mountain leaves taxpayers on the hook](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_70bcLkvZ-s&feature=youtu.be). The video can be found [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_70bcLkvZ-s&feature=youtu.be).

Throughout the year, Heller has cited numerous issues with reviving the failed Yucca Mountain project [including the dangers it would pose to the entire nation](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QlxrsaqW92U&feature=youtu.be) by transporting nuclear waste through 960 counties with a 2010 Census population of about 175 million, [as well as the serious risks to Las Vegas and the Southern Nevada economy](https://youtu.be/w5UF6SqDcKA).

Heller continues to advocate for a viable solution to our nation’s nuclear waste problem, his bipartisan [Nuclear Waste Informed Consent Act](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=0a660176-afb7-427d-a988-62918b702c6a). This legislation permits the construction of a nuclear waste repository only if the Secretary of Energy receives written consent from the governor of the host state, affected local officials, and affected Indian tribes. Under Heller’s legislation, state’s like Nevada that do not want to store spent nuclear waste will not be forced to do so by the federal government.

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