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19 TOSAWII: That's to wake up everybody who's
20 falling asleep here. This is pretty boring, waiting
21 around to be served, showing up at this meeting and
22 preregistering. Show up, nobody knows who I am. Get a
23 ticket. Find out my fellow Indian representative is
24 put down the line to you. But before I begin again,
25 before I continue, my name is Tosawii in my tribal

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1 language. I'm White Knife Shoshone of the Western
2 Shoshone Bands of Northern Councils of Nevada.
3 We have a vested interest, because a lot of
4 our people were moved from Central Nevada, Beatty area,
5 Kawich Mountain area, Pioche, Panaca, all the way up to
6 Elko during the late 1800s, 1900s. So a lot of those
7 people, we represent them up there.
8 My personal band is Tosawii. We're the
9 fighters of the Shoshone Tribe. We've been on the
10 Snake River, down to the Humboldt River. But first of
11 all, I'm going to have to admonish the Department of
12 Energy, because they have no sense. I'm going to have
13 to request Secretary Abraham to educate his people that

14 they have to understand what a government-to-government
15 relationship is, and I am not talking about writing us
16 letters, inviting us to meetings. What I'm talking
17 about is giving us the due respect that you guys give
18 to state officials, the county officials, the city
19 officials. You guys courted them, you give them their
20 whole little political show. But where were the Indian
21 tribes at? We were put in the back. And that
22 infuriated me.
23 I spoke with five different representatives
24 out there. Did I get an answer? No. Nobody came back
25 and talked to me. I demanded to speak to somebody. I

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1 got up to this position where I'm at because of donated
2 number from public citizen. If it wasn't for them, I'd
3 still be out there waiting for, probably not even being
4 served, from what I understand, from what this
5 Facilitator just said. And that would be the kind of
6 import I would have to get back to my tribe. I would
7 say that I showed up, they didn't know who I was.
8 Didn't, weren't able to give any public comment, wasn't
9 able to get any public view.
10 We had representatives in Elko, we had

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11 representatives in Carson, Reno. I am not sure how
12 successful the Reno and Carson City were, but I saw the
13 representative up in Elko.
14 But to get back to what I came down here, my
15 primary business is to assert our sovereignty as a
16 nation. Shoshone Nation. What the government calls us
17 Western Shoshone. The assertion that the State of
18 Nevada has declared itself a sovereign, that's fine and
19 dandy, but before that sovereign existed, we existed.
20 We owned this land. We controlled this land. We
21 managed this land. We didn't destroy it. We didn't
22 leave it. We didn't give it away. We didn't sell it.
23 We didn't sign it off. We haven't been paid for it.
24 We have been recognized as legal owners of
25 this land on a national level, nation-to-nation basis,

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1 with the U.S. Government, also internationally. The
2 land in question, as a whole nation -- see that? Can
3 you see the states? You can see our, you can see our
4 territory. That is the total Shoshone Nation. From
5 Montana to Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Nevada,
6 California. The area in question that we've been
7 protected by for our legal agreement with this country,

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8 United States, is the Treaty of Ruby Valley. And I
9 have personally been entrusted by the Traditional
10 Council to carry this fight on. As one of the younger
11 Councilmembers. Being the youngest member of that
12 council.
13 We have within the past five years, since our
14 fight with the government, lost many good leaders.
15 We're losing strength. But we still have the fight in
16 us. Even if there's one of us, there's still going to
17 be a fight. We have been described as being passive,
18 but that's a practice. We practice being passive. But
19 what I preach, the time for being passive is over. The
20 time for taking control is now. And by taking control,
21 that means being out here in these meetings and being
22 public. Educating the American public where we're at.
23 We were awarded $26 million back in 1979 for this land,
24 23 million acres. As you can see, this land covers
25 part of Idaho, some of Utah, all across Nevada, and
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1 into California. The government says we've been paid
2 for it.
3 We've been paid for it, all right. The
4 money's been given to Department of Interior on our

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5 behalf. They accepted it as our trustee. No Western
6 Shoshone has been paid for this land. Another question
7 that we have, they call it legalities. And it -- U.S.
8 Supreme Court, they ruled we've been paid, because the
9 Department of Interior accepted the money on our
10 behalf. They paid themselves. That money is being
11 held in trust. No Western Shoshone have been stepping
12 forward to accept it.
13 Now it's in the process or status of being
14 that it has to go through Congress. Now we have
15 Senator Reid pushing through legislation trying to fast
16 track us out of this land. What this has to do with
17 this meeting is before our government, our traditional
18 governments, our tribal governments have declared the
19 U.S. government persona non grata. Which means we have
20 not recognized your authority. And even on our Tribal
21 Council, our tribal identifications, it says we are a
22 citizen of the Western Shoshone first, then United
23 States second. And I am not sure how many Americans
24 out there understand that dual citizenship, but we have
25 it. We've retained that right. They've never taken
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1 that from us or stripped it from us. What that has to

2 pertain to the Department of Energy, they're on this
3 territory, on our territory illegally. So I want to
4 publicly using my power, my recognition from the
5 Council, to publicly tell the Department of Energy to
6 cease and desist. With all their actions.
7 (APPLAUSE)
8 From their past nuclear testing,
9 contamination, which we never have ever, ever agreed
10 to. It's not our way to destroy land. It's not our
11 way to destroy the land that we have to live off of.
12 What I get -- what gets me angry about that is back in
13 1980, without a lot of people's knowledge, in an EPA
14 document, there were deer found north of the test site
15 with 200 -- if I can recall right, 280,000 picocuries
16 per blood liter of tritium. They tried to pass this
17 off as being naturally occurring, but as everybody
18 knows that's educated in radionuclides, tritium is a
19 trigger device of the atomic weapons. They said it was
20 a harmless level, but just, it's not the level that
21 we're talking about, it's the principle. If those are
22 animals out there, they got tritium in them, what other
23 animals out there that have dangerous radionuclides
24 that they haven't been informing us of.

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25 MODERATOR LAWSON: You're now at 9 minutes.

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1 TOSAWII: Being -- I'll let you know. Being
2 people who have to subsist off this land because of our
3 poor income levels, we have to hunt, we have to fish,
4 we still take food off the land. There's many things
5 we're taking off, and we think our doing ourselves
6 healthy. But I'm not sure now. We have to think about
7 as Chairman Meyers addressed us earlier, how many of
8 our people have died from cancer.
9 We've had a continual high rate of people
10 dying from cancer. Up in, up in our area. And it
11 troubles me, because I see the children dying up in
12 Fallon, of a mysterious disease. Maybe soon we're
13 going to be seeing those pockets of diseases throughout
14 Nevada. Popping up soon. And they're going to be
15 unexplained. And we could just imagine what all that
16 fallout was doing to us back in the past. I mean,
17 there's continual horror stories of what happened when
18 that wind was hitting those people. The sicknesses
19 with animals, people.
20 In my own personal family, within the past
21 five years, we've had four members of our people, in

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22 our family die of cancer. And that was never a

23 traditional disease that we die from. And it just

24 makes me wonder what this world's coming to. And we're

25 going to leave it up to this Department to trust. I

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1 want to warn you people, Indians in the 1800s, we had

2 the Department of Indian Affairs. The American public

3 in the year 2000, they have the Department of Energy.

4 Think of that.