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Building and Construction Trades Department

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September 21, 2001

Honorable Spencer Abraham
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

2001-021702 Sep 24 p 12:01

Dear Secretary Abraham:

It is with a strong sense of urgency that I, on behalf of the over 3 million men and women represented by the Building and Construction Trades Department, heartily endorse the expedited approval and construction of the Yucca Mountain Storage facility. Our great Nation has been stymied in its utilization of nuclear energy due in part to the lack of having a central storage facility for spent fuel rods. This is no longer acceptable and construction of Yucca Mountain will remove this as a reason for not reviving our nuclear generating capacity.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 clearly demonstrate that on site storage at over seventy individual sites is far too dangerous to continue. Although the reactors themselves are located in reinforced "containment", the onsite storage facilities are not and lay exposed. A centralized facility would alleviate much of this exposure and help minimize the danger of terrorist attacks that currently exist.

A highly secure, state of the art facility like the one proposed for Yucca Mountain is unquestionably in the best interest of our country. Barring any negative environmental findings this project should proceed with the utmost haste and the Building and Construction Trades Department stands ready to help in any way possible.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Edward C. Sullivan
President