

7 LAURA FILMORE: Good evening. I come to you
8 as a Nevada public school teacher. I'm an ordinary
9 citizen. I don't represent any organizations this
10 evening. I'm representing my family here tonight.

11 [I wanted to recognize the amount of study 1
12 and the science and the scientists in the room who
13 have done the environmental assessments that go into
14 this, the legislators that are in the room, the
15 county leaders. And I want to recognize also that
16 many of you make your livings trying to make sure
17 that this project goes through, and I wanted to also
18 recognize that there's a great deal of money to be
19 made from this project.

20 But I met Dr. Robert Gayle after Chernobyl
21 blew. He was in Kansas City where I was a cable
22 access producer at the time and interviewed him
23 one-on-one. And during that interview it came up
24 that there would be a major nuclear accident once
25 every four years internationally. And we haven't
1 seen that happen in the interim since Chernobyl blew.
2 I don't think that means that it won't happen again.

3 And I'm very, very concerned about that. At
4 the end of making a documentary on Chernobyl, in that
5 period of time I was a very anxious young 24-year-old
6 woman, very, very worried about the long-term effects
7 of radiation.

8 For those of you who know that when an atom
9 is split, it never really stops, or we don't know --

10 we've not lived -- nuclear energy is as old as my own
11 mother. Nuclear power, nuclear technology is as old
12 as my mother. And we don't know how long that
13 continues to progress nor how destructive that can be
14 as those atoms continue to split and that radiation
15 continues to be viable. And that terrifies me.

16 And the reason why I'm terrified is because
17 now I'm in the middle of a master's degree in
18 researching the effects of this atomic technology and
19 our response to that, and in progress making it into
20 disciplinary units for Nevada public school children
21 so we can educate them about all aspects of this, and
22 they can be here in the future, make the decisions
23 about their homeland.

24 And the more I study it the more I realize
25 that the United States government has consistently
1 under-understood or misunderstood the effect of this
2 technology from the birth of it on. And so there's a
3 righteous anger and passion in my heart tonight
4 because the soldiers who were on those ships in the
5 Bikini Islands were not given any protective gear as
6 they cleaned up, while the scientists were fully
7 shrouded. And then, you know, years later it
8 continues.

9 And I'm just absolutely sure that because we
10 don't have eons of vision for the future that we
11 don't understand. And I don't believe my government.
12 I think we're being lied to too much of the time at
13 this point. And I don't believe that the answers are

14 fact filed. I don't believe that we really have this
15 in hand.

16 And I, as a parent most of all, I'm a
17 mother, and I want my children to survive. I want
18 their water to be clean. They happen to be
19 indigenous children. And we teach our kids that they
20 need to think of seven generations ahead every time
21 they make a decision so that they don't do anything
22 that would thwart their great, great, great, seven
23 generations ahead, their great, great grandchildren.

24 And that's not going to happen. That's not
25 happening when science trumps the reason and the
1 history. It's not happening when money becomes the
2 deciding factor. It would make places that are
3 barren otherwise glorious to have huge sums of money
4 that come into those places.

5 It costs, I'm quite sure, huge sums of money
6 to put on this hearing with the little Federal
7 Register notice. And I'm also sure that there would
8 be thousands of Nevadans here if they thought that
9 this was a crucial turning point in the development
10 of -- in the decision making about whether or not
11 this waste will be transported across our state and
12 housed, as was said earlier, on ancestral Shoshone
13 lands.

14 So for all the citizens of Nevada who are
15 downwinders of Idaho, for all of the nuclear testings
16 and all of the ways that we partied around in the

17 casinos while the atomic cloud bursts were seen
18 overhead, that naivety is still here in this room
19 today. It is still on posters in the back of the
20 room. It's not okay. It's not all safe and fuzzy
21 and warm.

22 And we cannot predict the future as a people
23 without really understanding the internal workings of
24 the smallest element on the face of the earth. If
25 Einstein was sorry then there's not a scientist in

1 here who can tell me that they have not considered

2 the moral consequences of being wrong about this to
3 their grandchildren seven generations ahead.

4 You love your children, love the earth, love
5 each other. Let's try to remember that. We've been
6 lied to consistently during the development of this
7 technology, and there is no promise that it is not
8 any longer a lie and that these casks will really
9 bear something we do not understand.

10 It is not when you lay down for the last
11 time in your own bed and go to sleep and then are
12 transported to the next world, wherever you think
13 that may be, the end of your responsibility in this
14 matter. This is seven generations ahead.

15 There is no amount of money that can bring
16 the earth back if Yucca Mountain erupts out of
17 volcanic activity. There's no amount of money that
18 can stop the seepage of the water that's been
19 documented internally in that mountain. There's no
20 amount of money that can bring the water table back

21 for the earth, and there's no amount of money that
22 can explain this to our children's children in the
23 future if we make a grave error at this time.

24 I have one last comment. The science has
25 always been behind the eight ball, and I have no
1 reason to believe that it would now be otherwise. If
2 there's no radiation protection standard that we can
3 all agree on, then I would ask that the citizens of
4 Nevada be led to continue to question this and that
5 we might have our voice and continue to have it to
6 stop this process. Let's leave the waste where it is
7 and let's figure it out before we do this.]