

And now, this Congress wants to continue to egregiously spend money on this failed project in fiscal year 2019 appropriations.

So once again, I am here to fight to prevent nuclear waste from ever coming to my home State of Nevada. That is why I have introduced an amendment to H.R. 5895, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2019.

My amendment, Mr. Chairman, would strike \$190 million for the licensing of the nuclear waste depository at Yucca Mountain.

I routinely hear from my Republican colleagues on the need to reduce our deficit and debt. I fully agree with the sentiment. Congress should not waste another \$190 million of taxpayer money on a project that will not come to fruition.

But you should support my amendment not just on the fiscal basis. Mr. Chairman, my home State of Nevada, which has no nuclear energy-producing facilities, should not be the dumping ground for the rest of the country's nuclear waste.

And this is not just an issue facing Nevadans. It is an issue that impacts constituents from 329 congressional districts in 44 States and Washington, D.C.

Putting a nuclear repository in Nevada's backyard means that this high level nuclear waste must travel through your backyards first as well.

Your constituents will see high level nuclear waste transported through their communities on rail and by truck. A simple car crash or train derailment will leave your constituents at risk and cost our taxpayers more money to clean up the mess.

It is clear that reopening Yucca Mountain is fiscally unsound, presents threats to people across the country, and is unwanted by the people of Nevada. That is why I encourage you to support my amendment to prevent nuclear waste from ever coming to Nevada.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), my colleague.

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Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of our amendment, which would strike funding for the Yucca Mountain project.

Like the vast majority of Nevadans, I firmly oppose any attempt to turn my State into the Nation's nuclear waste dump. Dumping nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain wouldn't only endanger the health and safety of my constituents, who live just 90 miles away in the Las Vegas Valley, it would threaten millions of Americans in 44 States.

This ill-conceived plan would mean transporting tens of thousands of metric tons of radioactive waste across this country. Those shipments of hazardous material would travel on our highways and railways to Nevada

through over 329 congressional districts on a weekly basis for more than 50 years.

Finally, reviving Yucca Mountain would jeopardize military testing and training at our defense facilities.

Our amendment would strike \$190 million for the licensing for this administration's plan to turn Nevada into a dumping ground. That is the bulk of the funding for this dangerous failure of a project. We shouldn't waste another dime of taxpayer money on failed efforts to try to send nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain.

It is time to move on from this reckless and costly project, so I urge my colleagues to support our amendment to remove this licensing funding and, instead, work with us on alternative solutions that repurpose Yucca Mountain into something that can create jobs and keep our families safe.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Chairman, let me be clear what this amendment does.

This is 1,000 pages of the safety and evaluation report by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission—5 volumes. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is our independent safety agency on all things nuclear.

What my colleague from Nevada's amendment does is strip the money for what they keep telling me they want. They want to prove the science. They want to say it is not safe. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission says it is safe for a million years.

Now, if my colleagues from Nevada want to debate the science, then they can do that, per the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, through the licensing project. But, no, they don't want to put their science up against our independent nuclear safety agency. They want to adjudicate this in the court of public opinion and deprive the money to have that final science debate.

So this amendment is really an anti-science amendment to not debate the NRC's finding, because we know that in their conclusion they say storing nuclear waste in a long-term geological repository—and this is the world consensus—in a deep geological repository is what the world's scientists say is the safest way to store spent nuclear fuel and defense waste.

That is not just the United States. That is France. That is Norway. That is Great Britain. That is many of our allies and friends and their scientists. Again, 1,000 pages, 5 volumes, public record.

This amendment takes that money away so we don't have a debate on the science. It is either in the desert underneath a mountain, 1,000 feet above the ground table, 1,000 feet below the top of the mountain, or it is on the Pacific Ocean. Those are the choices that we had debated in H.R. 3053.

And not only that, the Chamber as a whole, in a bipartisan manner, said—340 Members—actually, more Democrats supported H.R. 3053 than opposed it—340-72. Why? Because we have a national problem which requires a national solution. We have to keep our promises.

These are the operating commercial and nuclear reactors. This doesn't even talk about the defense issue. The national media from around the country is on our side as far as moving forward if the science is found to be reliable.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission says a million years. The State of Nevada says: Not so. Let's have the debate. Let's not strip the money away to have that final debate. That is why I ask my colleagues to reject this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Chairman, I am glad this amendment came, because our job now is to educate, not only the State of Nevada, but it is also to educate our colleagues from across the country that the science debate, the final decision needs to be through the licensing.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, our independent Federal nuclear safety agency, says it will be safe for a million years. Nevada says: Not so. Let's have the debate. Let's not strip the money.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. KIHUEN).

The amendment was rejected.

The Acting CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) assumed the chair.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2377. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 200 West 2nd Street in Dayton, Ohio, as the "Walter H. Rice Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

S. 2734. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

The Committee resumed its sitting.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). It is now in order to