Real estate/development leaders pledge $70,000 to fight Yucca Mountain dump

LAS VEGAS – Gov. Kenny Guinn announced today that leaders in Southern Nevada’s real estate/development sector, the state’s second largest industry, have contributed $70,000 to the Nevada Protection Fund. The Molasky Companies donated $50,000, and the Nevada Association of REALTORS™ contributed $20,000, respectively, in the state’s fight against the development of a high-level nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain. These contributions mark the first private fundraising achievement outside the gaming industry.

The Nevada Protection Fund was established to support the numerous legal challenges the state has and will undertake in fighting Yucca Mountain, and fund a communications effort in other states along the transportation route.

“Members of the Molasky family are lifelong Nevadans with roots dating back 50 years. They are passionate about the issues facing this state, and have been actively engaged in the fight against Yucca Mountain for years,” Gov. Guinn said. “Simultaneously, the REALTORS™ represent the home buying public, and recognize the need to aid us in this battle. Together, these two entities are a powerful voice for the growing development sector, a community that will be deeply affected by the proposed repository.”
“This contribution is not only reflective of our own family’s dedication to this issue, but it is also a commitment that we want to make on behalf of our employees, our residents, our communities, and every stakeholder in Nevada’s future,” said Steven Molasky, who was appointed eight years ago to the state’s Nuclear Projects Commission. “America was founded on the principle of vocal dissent. It’s imperative we get our message out to millions of citizens who would be endangered. I call on everyone in the vast southern Nevada business community to participate in the Nevada Protection Fund.”

Molasky says these contributions should create momentum for other private companies – real estate industry or otherwise – to step up to the plate. “This begins a community-wide challenge, and with enough support, I believe it’s a fight we can win,” he added.

The REALTORS™ $20,000 contribution is funded through the association’s Issues Mobilization Political Action Committee (IMPAC). According to Kellie Rubin, president-elect for Nevada Association of REALTORS™, this contribution is only a first step.

“We touch the lives of homeowners everyday. And as ambassadors of Las Vegas’ housing market, we will do everything in our power to protect the quality of life in this community,” said Rubin. “This initial contribution is an immediate sign of our support. We will work closely with the national association and on various local levels to generate additional funds.”

The Nevada Protection Fund has reached $6 million after Gov. Guinn received $4 million from the State Legislature, with the balance coming from Nevada’s cities and counties. Until today’s announcement, the gaming industry represented the only private sector to pledge financial support; to that end, the Nevada Resort Association’s “Dump the Dump” campaign has contributions totaling approximately $300,000.

Working in conjunction with members of the Nevada Commission on Nuclear Projects, Gov. Guinn said he would undertake a very aggressive fundraising effort in the private sector.

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