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Letters to the Editor
The Washington Times

Dear Editor:

Ed Feulner believes ("Wasting a Good Solution," Sept. 9) the safety of the Yucca Mountain repository has already been determined, so we should eschew "politics" and "get Yucca open." He's wrong. By law, the Energy Department must yet demonstrate Yucca's safety in a three-year trial before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. He absurdly claims that "the water table at Yucca is contained, so if there's a leak, it won't contaminate the water supply anywhere else." Great, it will only kill Nevadans: The water below Yucca supplies the entire Amargosa Valley, the nation's largest organic farming region and the source of 80-percent of Nevada's milk—to say nothing of its future value being only 75 miles from Las Vegas, the *fastest* growing metropolitan area in the United States.

In June, a federal appeals court ruled that the Government had "unabashedly rejected" sound science in setting the safety standard for Yucca, ordering it to meet the standard required of every other repository program in the world. It is the nuclear industry and its Heritage Foundation allies who now want to force-feed a "political" solution, since porous geology makes Yucca too leaky to meet the standard. A less repugnant result than sacrificing Nevadans would be to leave the waste safely stored where it is until a suitable new site is found.

Sincerely,

Brian Sandoval
Attorney General
The State of Nevada