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HISPANIC LEADERS URGE SENATE TO SUPPORT THE YUCCA MOUNTAIN RESPOSITORY

Washington, DC — The Board of Directors of The Latino Coalition (TLC) and the Hispanic Business Roundtable (HBR) today urged the U.S. Senate to make Yucca Mountain the permanent storage site for used nuclear fuel. The leadership of both organizations faxed letters to Senate members urging them to put America's critical energy interest over partisan politics and support Yucca Mountain in the best interest of the nation and its citizens.

"The Yucca Mountain resolution is not, and should not become a partisan issue," said TLC President Robert G. Desposada. "Instead, it is one that provides a solution both in terms of energy security and national security, one that can have a dramatic impact on the most vulnerable working families across the country."

"Low income working families are the ones disproportionately affected by an increase in energy prices," Desposada added. "Nuclear energy provides clean, safe and reliable domestic power, a commodity that helps reduce our dependence on foreign energy resources and helps keep energy prices stable. And this is of significant importance to U.S. Hispanics at a time that the economic downturn has disproportionately affected our community."

The United States has invested more than 20 years and \$7 billion of research into the viability of Yucca Mountain. In that time, the site has met or exceeded every environmental and scientific requirement.

"We support a safe, secure, and scientifically proven repository for America's used nuclear fuel," said HBR President Mario Rodriguez. "Long-term energy supply and price stability will be imperiled if Yucca Mountain is not approved. Our members, their employees and their families cannot endure such a dangerous prospect."

The Latino Coalition and the Hispanic Business Roundtable and are both non-profit, non-partisan organizations based in Washington, D.C. Both organizations were established to address policy issues that directly affect the well-being of Hispanics in the U.S. Their agenda is to develop and promote policies that will enhance overall business, economic and social development of Hispanics.

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