

HOME

Healing Ourselves & Mother Earth

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Dear Teacher;

October 5, 2006

HOME hopes that your fall term is going well, and that you have had a good summer. We are offering our *Nuclear Issues in Our Times* Essay Contest. This spring we plan to send two students with the best essays from Washoe Co. to Washington DC.

An important part of HOME's mission is to encourage citizen (including our youth) awareness and participation in issues that affect Nevada. To this end, we would like to challenge students to think about the possibility that Nevada might be host to a radioactive waste dump at Yucca Mountain.

Contest winners receive a trip to Washington DC in April 18 to 25. They will participate or observe the lobbying and have a few days to see Washington. The lobbying activity, called "DC Days," is organized by the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (see attached information from 2006) in which HOME is a member organization. DC Days focuses on issues related to nuclear weapons and waste. The students will see how lobbying is conducted by grassroots groups such as HOME. They will meet our state's federal representatives and possibly other members of Congress.

See attached brochure about DC days.

HOME also hopes the students will take notes on their trip and be willing to talk about their experience to our local news outlets and to other students.

Unfortunately, students will miss some school time, so they will have to be prepared to make up missed assignments (**the absences will be school approved**). But, the chance to visit Washington, expenses paid, and to see our government in action seems well worth the effort. HOME will arrange housing and provide money for food and fun. They will be accompanied by HOME Board members, and a college intern or two who are working with us this year.

Please let your students know of this contest. John Hadder will be available to help prepare students for the contest. In the past, John has come to classrooms to talk/discuss with students nuclear issues as Yucca Mountain, so feel free to contact us for a classroom presentation or meet with you and/or interested students separately. Please contact John Hadder at hadder@gbis.com or 775-786-1986 for any questions or to set up a visit.

Sincerely,

John Hadder, Reno Programs Director