

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard  
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**Subject:** Heller confirms hold on nominee for DOE No. 2 spot

By Darius Dixon

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Sen. [Dean Heller](#) said he put a hold on deputy Energy secretary nominee Dan Brouillette because of his support for resuming work on the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository.

"If you're pro-Yucca, we're not friends," the Nevada Republican told POLITICO this afternoon.

Brouillette was approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee more than five weeks ago. He [voiced support](#) for Yucca Mountain during his nomination hearing.

The hold, Heller said, "is to send a message" about [H.R. 3053 \(115\)](#), a nuclear waste bill [approved](#) 49-4 by the House Energy and Commerce Committee last month, and funding for Yucca Mountain in the House fiscal 2018 energy and water appropriations bill.

"I want people to know how I feel — how Nevada feels — about this atrocious piece of legislation that's coming out of the House. There's no room for it. There's nothing right about it," he said.

When asked whether he sought to stop the House bill or get money out of the spending bill, Heller answered, "all of the above."

**WHAT'S NEXT:** Both bills are awaiting time on the House floor. The Senate energy and water spending bill is expected to be released this month but it's unclear if it will also have money for Yucca Mountain.

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