DATE: September 12, 2018

TO: Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners

VIA: Katherine Miller, County Manager

FROM: Anna C. Hansen, Santa Fe County Commissioner, District 2

RE: Request Approval of a Letter of Support for the suspension of the implementation of Order 140.1 to allow the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB), Congress, affected state and local governments, and the public sufficient time to review and comment on Order 140.1. (Commissioner Hansen)

BACKGROUND:

Given the proximity of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to Santa Fe County, and the fact that many county residents work at or near LANL, the ability of DNFSB to perform its statutory duty to ensure the safety of communities and workers at nuclear security labs and the Waste Isolation Pilot Project is of paramount importance to Santa Fe County and its residents.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Chair Hansen seeks Commissioner Approval of the Letter of Support for the suspension of the implementation of Order 140.1 to allow the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB), Congress, affected state and local governments, and the public sufficient time to review and comment on Order 140.1.
September 25, 2018

The Honorable Rick Perry
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Call for Suspension of Order 140.1

Dear Secretary Perry:

On behalf of the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County, I write to express our strong support for, and agreement with, Senators Udall and Heinrich’s September 5, 2018 letter to you regarding the Department of Energy’s (DOE) new Order 140.1. We join in Senator Udall and Heinrich’s call to suspend the implementation of Order 140.1 to allow the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB), Congress, affected state and local governments, and the public sufficient time to review and comment on Order 140.1.

Given the proximity of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to Santa Fe County, and the fact that many county residents work at or near LANL, the ability of DNFSB to perform its statutory duty to ensure the safety of communities and workers at nuclear security labs and the Waste Isolation Pilot Project is of paramount importance to Santa Fe County and its residents. We echo Senators Udall and Heinrich’s strong support for the mission of the DNFSB, and share their concerns about DNFSB staff’s difficulties in accessing information regarding recent safety issues at LANL. We unreservedly stand with our Senators in opposition to any action by DOE that would weaken or restrict the DNFSB’s statutory authority to help protect our residents.

We join our Senators in urging you to suspend Order 140.1, and to receive and give due consideration to comments and suggestions from members of the DNFSB and Congress, as well as to concerns expressed by the public at public hearings. Thereafter, we request that you reissue a revised order that does not in any way impinge upon the DNFSB’s ability to perform its critical mission of helping ensure the health and safety of Santa Fe County residents and all New Mexicans who live near or work at federal nuclear facilities in our state.
Sincerely,

Anna Hansen, Chair
Board of County Commissioners for Santa Fe County

cc: Senator Tom Udall
    Senator Martin Heinrich