\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2019

Mr. Bobby St. John

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

PO Box 2078

Carlsbad, NM 88220 email: infocntr@wipp.ws

Dear Mr. St. John:

**I strongly oppose the “WIPP Forever” Draft Strategic Plan.** Federal laws, agreements with the State of New Mexico, and the WIPP Permit all provide that WIPP has a limited mission for up to 175,564 cubic meters of transuranic (TRU) waste and to operate for a limited lifetime. **Other repositories and improved on-site storage must be developed for other wastes and newly generated TRU waste**.

**The Draft Strategic Plan clearly indicates that the Department of Energy (DOE) intends to ignore those legal limitations and keep WIPP open until 2050 or later with no plan for additional repositories.**

Rather than recognizing legal limitations, the Draft Strategic Plan includes no date to close WIPP and instead has new facilities, including a fifth shaft, additional disposal panels and rooms, and an above ground storage area for more wastes. Those new facilities could accommodate more wastes for which the Department of Energy (DOE) has specific plans including:

* At least 34 metric tons (74,800 pounds) of weapons-grade plutonium, to make WIPP the world’s largest plutonium “ore body”
* High-level wastes from Hanford, Washington (and other sites)
* Commercial waste from West Valley, New York
* Greater-Than-Class C commercial waste from nuclear power plants
* Elemental mercury surface storage

The WIPP Strategic Plan must be revised to explicitly eliminate those additional wastes, limit WIPP to the legal waste volumes, provide a permanent closure date, and specifically support DOE and congressional efforts to develop other repositories and waste storage sites.

Sincerely,

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Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_