

Email to: **Madai.Corral@state.nm.us**
Subject Line: **HWB 21-02 WIPP SHAFT COMMENT**

Ms. Madai Corral, Hearing Clerk
New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)

Dear Ms. Corral:

I join with many other New Mexicans to object to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) expansion and to the proposed new shaft. Please deny the new shaft draft permit modification.

The new shaft is an integral part of the Department of Energy's (DOE's) expansion plan for WIPP. Before we build a new shaft to support expanding WIPP and continuing waste emplacement and waste shipping for decades into the future, we must first decide whether such an expansion is a proper use of our land and whether it will be beneficial or harmful for New Mexicans.

The economy in southeast New Mexico where WIPP is sited has traditionally been based on farming, ranching, dairies, tourism and resource extraction. Oil and gas development in the area is now one of, if not, the largest in the world. These traditional economies provide many more jobs and much more income and tax revenue than WIPP ever has. Yet these economies are under constant threat of contamination from a serious accident and release from the site or along the transportation routes. Such an accident could destroy a good portion of agricultural land and oil and gas development in the area. The risk of such a devastating accident is not worth any "benefits" an expanded WIPP would provide, especially when WIPP still has serious outstanding safety issues.

Since WIPP was built, other radioactive and/or hazardous facilities have been planned for or constructed nearby. The private nuclear industry is promoting the area as the "nuclear corridor." I am concerned that our state is being turned into something that will be perceived only as a nuclear and hazardous garbage dump for the country and the world. This is not the economic future I and other New Mexicans want for our enchanted state.

Again, please deny the draft permit for the proposed shaft. It is not needed for ventilation. An expanded WIPP does not support our traditional economies. It is not the best land use or economic development for our state.

Sincerely,

(Your **Name**, **Address** and **Date**)