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HOUSE MEMORIAL 24

**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002**

INTRODUCED BY

John A. Heaton

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND THE CARLSBAD FIELD OFFICE TO BRIEF THE APPROPRIATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES ON EFFORTS TO ENHANCE THE POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT AND SAFE OPERATION RECORD OF WIPP.

WHEREAS, the first shipment of waste from the Los Alamos national laboratory arrived at the waste isolation pilot plant commonly known as WIPP in 1999; and

WHEREAS, WIPP has now safely received over five hundred shipments representing over one million transport miles and has disposed of over fourteen thousand drums with no auto or truck accidents, no citizen or worker injuries and no contamination as a result of WIPP waste and is now receiving

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1 in excess of seventeen shipments of waste each week; and

2 WHEREAS, WIPP is playing an increasingly important part  
3 in accelerating the cleanup of waste stored above ground at  
4 Los Alamos and Sandia national laboratories and other sites  
5 throughout the nation; and

6 WHEREAS, a substantial percentage of the work force in  
7 Carlsbad, New Mexico, is directly or indirectly employed by  
8 WIPP or related businesses; and

9 WHEREAS, WIPP has an annual budget of over one hundred  
10 ninety-two million dollars (\$192,000,000) and an additional  
11 economic impact of over sixty-eight million dollars  
12 (\$68,000,000) on the economy of southeastern New Mexico and  
13 has produced over eight hundred twenty high-tech jobs and  
14 several spin-off companies and facilities and has brought  
15 scores of highly trained scientists, engineers and doctoral  
16 level researchers to the area; and

17 WHEREAS, these companies and these employees have become  
18 an integral part of the Carlsbad and Eddy county communities;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the transportation system in New Mexico has been  
21 vastly improved by the four hundred million dollars  
22 (\$400,000,000) in highway improvements directly related to  
23 WIPP;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
25 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico

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1 department of environment, the office of environmental  
2 management of the United States department of energy and the  
3 Carlsbad field office be requested to brief the appropriate  
4 legislative committees on efforts to enhance the positive  
5 economic impact and safe operation record of WIPP and its part  
6 in expediting the cleanup of waste sites and enhancing our  
7 environmental and homeland security; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
9 transmitted to the secretary of environment, the office of  
10 environmental management of the United States department of  
11 energy and the director of the Carlsbad field office.

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