

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 49

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

IN SUPPORT OF LOS ALAMOS COUNTY FOR THE COUNTY'S EFFORTS TO
COMPEL THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND NATIONAL
NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION TO CEASE CONSTRUCTION AND
OPERATION OF A ROAD CHECKPOINT PROJECT PENDING RESOLUTION OF
THE COMMUNITY'S CONCERNS.

WHEREAS, the United States department of energy and
national nuclear security administration are constructing road
checkpoints that could potentially eliminate access to parts of
Los Alamos county and detrimentally impact the Los Alamos
county economy; and

WHEREAS, the United States department of energy and
national nuclear security administration are required to
conduct an analysis of the environmental and other impacts of
such road checkpoint construction, but have not yet conducted

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1 this analysis; and

2 WHEREAS, the county council of the incorporated county of
3 Los Alamos has made repeated efforts to make the United States
4 department of energy and national nuclear security
5 administration address community concerns associated with the
6 construction and operation of the proposed road checkpoint
7 project; and

8 WHEREAS, the impact of this project includes all of
9 Sandoval county, the Jemez mountain area and the many visitors
10 to Bandelier national monument and other tourism destinations
11 in the region; and

12 WHEREAS, the county council of the incorporated county of
13 Los Alamos has offered substantive proposals for the resolution
14 of community concerns, such as the construction of a bypass
15 roadway to divert traffic around Los Alamos national
16 laboratory; and

17 WHEREAS, the United States department of energy and
18 national nuclear security administration have consistently
19 rebuffed Los Alamos county by failing to consider any revisions
20 or alterations to the planned construction and operation of the
21 road checkpoint project; and

22 WHEREAS, the course of conduct of the United States
23 department of energy and national nuclear security
24 administration demonstrates a palpable willingness to ignore
25 community concerns to the detriment of the state of New Mexico,

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1 its local governments, including Los Alamos county, and the
2 residents of the state; and

3 WHEREAS, an opportunity does exist for the United States
4 department of energy and national nuclear security
5 administration to turn the page on a new chapter in their
6 relationship with state and local government by engaging in
7 substantive dialogue about actions the agencies intend to take,
8 prior to committing resources to projects, programs and
9 activities, that will have a profound impact on the state and
10 local government; and

11 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico encourages the United
12 States department of energy and national nuclear security
13 administration to demonstrate their commitment to this
14 relationship by changing their approach to the road checkpoint
15 project, meeting with representatives of Los Alamos county and
16 accepting substantive changes to the project that will address
17 local concerns;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state of New Mexico support the
20 incorporated county of Los Alamos and respectfully request that
21 the United States department of energy and national nuclear
22 security administration cease construction and operation of the
23 road checkpoint project until the agencies can address the
24 legitimate concerns of the community; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States department

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1 of energy and national nuclear security administration embrace
2 the new era at Los Alamos national laboratory by changing their
3 approach to relations with state and local government by
4 cooperating on matters of broad community concern, rather than
5 engaging in unilateral decision-making; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state of New Mexico
7 support resolution of the dispute between the United States
8 department of energy and national nuclear security
9 administration and Los Alamos county that provides unimpeded
10 access to motorists through an alternative route or changes to
11 the proposed road checkpoint project; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the secretary of energy and the administrator of
14 the national nuclear security administration.

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