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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE EDDY-LEA ENERGY ALLIANCE TO DEVELOP A  
CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STORAGE FACILITY.

WHEREAS, the 2013 report from the blue ribbon commission on America's nuclear future strongly recommended that one or more consolidated interim storage facilities be established to temporarily store the spent nuclear fuel generated by America's nuclear fleet, which generates approximately twenty percent of the electricity in the United States; and

WHEREAS, nuclear power plants are an important carbon-free source of reliable electricity production in the United States, and without them, America would be emitting six hundred million metric tons, or twenty-five percent more, of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere annually; and

WHEREAS, there are thirteen decommissioned reactors in the United States that need a place for their used fuel to be stored, and about twenty more will be decommissioned by 2035; and

WHEREAS, many power generators have overly packed fuel pools, and others have very limited on-site storage capability; and

WHEREAS, the nuclear power utilities have standard contracts with the United States government requiring that the United States government take possession of the

1 utilities' spent fuel by 1998 and remove it from their sites  
2 to Yucca mountain, which has not occurred because Yucca  
3 mountain has yet to be certified as a spent-fuel repository;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, most of the utilities have sued the United  
6 States government for breach of contract and have won  
7 settlement agreements that will pay the utilities from United  
8 States government settlement funds for their storage and  
9 management costs associated with their spent nuclear fuel  
10 beginning in 1998 until the United States government is able  
11 to take possession of the fuel and remove it to a temporary  
12 consolidated storage site or a permanent repository; and

13 WHEREAS, the blue ribbon commission on America's nuclear  
14 future estimated that the United States treasury would pay  
15 out more than twenty billion dollars (\$20,000,000,000) to the  
16 utilities by 2020, and thereafter, the cost to the treasury  
17 would be five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000) per  
18 year; and

19 WHEREAS, the Eddy-Lea energy alliance, llc, was formed  
20 by the cities of Carlsbad and Hobbs and the counties of Eddy  
21 and Lea for economic development purposes; and

22 WHEREAS, the Eddy-Lea energy alliance purchased one  
23 thousand acres of land between Carlsbad and Hobbs to respond  
24 to a government project as a joint venture that ultimately  
25 did not materialize; and

1           WHEREAS, the alliance was afforded a grant by the United  
2 States government of more than one million dollars  
3 (\$1,000,000) to characterize the site extensively for  
4 environmental, archaeological, geologic, seismic and  
5 geographic criteria; and

6           WHEREAS, the alliance was dormant until the blue ribbon  
7 commission on America's nuclear future began to focus on  
8 consolidated interim storage as an interim step to reduce  
9 costs through consolidation of the spent fuel and fulfill the  
10 contractual obligations with the utilities; and

11           WHEREAS, the alliance site is ideal for a consolidated  
12 interim storage facility because of the technical criteria of  
13 the site, because it is thirty-five miles from any  
14 population, because there is no overhead air traffic and  
15 because there is a trained scientific nuclear workforce in  
16 the area; and

17           WHEREAS, the number one concern of the alliance when  
18 developing any project on the site is the safety and security  
19 of the residents of Eddy and Lea counties; and

20           WHEREAS, the board of directors of the alliance  
21 investigated the safety and security concerns extensively  
22 through visitations to nuclear manufacturing facilities and  
23 nuclear power plants and discussions with the nuclear  
24 regulatory commission; and

25           WHEREAS, dry cask storage has been used for more than

1 thirty years in America without incident; and

2 WHEREAS, the alliance has received a favorable proposal  
3 from Holtec international to acquire the alliance site and  
4 develop it as a consolidated interim storage facility; and

5 WHEREAS, Holtec international's sub-surface system,  
6 known as HI-STORM UMAX, is already certified by the nuclear  
7 regulatory commission; and

8 WHEREAS, design, construction, safety, security,  
9 financial assurance and technical control, as well as the  
10 complete process for storage, must be overseen and approved  
11 by the nuclear regulatory commission; and

12 WHEREAS, the nuclear regulatory commission approves and  
13 certifies all shipping casks, rail cars, trucking or any  
14 other method of transit; and

15 WHEREAS, hundreds of shipments of spent fuel have  
16 occurred in America over the past thirty years without  
17 incident; and

18 WHEREAS, the Eddy-Lea energy alliance believes the  
19 Holtec international consolidated interim storage facility  
20 will create some one hundred fifty highly paid jobs and will  
21 provide a one-billion-two-hundred-million-dollar  
22 (\$1,200,000,000) capital investment in southeastern New  
23 Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, the alliance believes additional spinoffs in  
25 research and repackaging could create an additional two

1 hundred jobs in the future; and

2 WHEREAS, the Eddy-Lea energy alliance expects that there  
3 will be revenue-sharing income from the project that it  
4 expects to share with the state of New Mexico and the region;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Eddy-Lea  
7 energy alliance, llc, be requested to develop a consolidated  
8 interim storage facility at its site in southeastern New  
9 Mexico; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
11 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, United  
12 States Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz and Acting Assistant  
13 Secretary for the Office of Nuclear Energy John Kotek. \_\_\_\_\_

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