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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 9

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES, PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS TO IDENTIFY STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT EFFORTS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF AWARDED CONTRACTS AND TO INCREASE LOCAL BUSINESS PROCUREMENT PERTAINING TO ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP FOR LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY.

WHEREAS, effective economic planning on behalf of New Mexico residents requires a strategic collaboration by the state of New Mexico, the state's vital institutions, the private sector, local municipalities and counties and Indian nations, tribes and pueblos; and

WHEREAS, Los Alamos national laboratory is a major economic driver throughout New Mexico, having a direct impact on the economies of New Mexico's local communities; and

WHEREAS, many local businesses benefit from contracts with

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1 Los Alamos national laboratory and with its major
2 subcontractors, which have a positive impact on local
3 economies, increase the state's tax base and directly employ
4 thousands of people in communities throughout New Mexico; and

5 WHEREAS, the consortium of major Los Alamos national
6 laboratory subcontractors is an organization made up of all Los
7 Alamos national laboratory subcontractors with contracts of
8 five million dollars (\$5,000,000) or more; and

9 WHEREAS, the consortium of major Los Alamos national
10 laboratory subcontractors generates hundreds of millions of
11 dollars in annual revenues, expands the state's tax base and
12 employs thousands of New Mexico residents; and

13 WHEREAS, every subcontractor that is a member in the
14 consortium of major Los Alamos national laboratory
15 subcontractors is required to maintain local facilities and
16 implement a community development plan that supports community
17 giving, education and economic development in northern New
18 Mexico; and

19 WHEREAS, over the past four years, the membership of the
20 consortium of major Los Alamos national laboratory
21 subcontractors has directly contributed over fourteen million
22 dollars (\$14,000,000) of funds and services to northern New
23 Mexico communities and nonprofit organizations; and

24 WHEREAS, contributions from the consortium of major Los
25 Alamos national laboratory subcontractors have provided schools

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1 with equipment and resources for students in need; provided
2 computers and training to local youth organizations; rebuilt
3 acequias for local farmers; and provided heavy earthmoving
4 equipment to flood-ravaged pueblos; and

5 WHEREAS, the consortium of major Los Alamos national
6 laboratory subcontractors contributes funds to and administers
7 a grant pool that has provided over five hundred thousand
8 dollars (\$500,000) in grants to dozens of economic development
9 projects with local nonprofit organizations and local
10 governments, including ninety-five thousand dollars (\$95,000)
11 in grants awarded in 2014 to organizations throughout northern
12 New Mexico; and

13 WHEREAS, forty-six percent of the membership of the
14 consortium of major Los Alamos national laboratory
15 subcontractors is directly involved in cleaning up the legacy
16 of past laboratory operations; and

17 WHEREAS, four major task order agreement contracts for
18 environmental cleanup, worth a collective contract ceiling of
19 nine hundred fifty million dollars (\$950,000,000), were put out
20 to bid nationwide; and

21 WHEREAS, with national nuclear security administration
22 review and approval, Los Alamos national security, limited
23 liability company, awarded each of the four master task order
24 agreements to three or four companies with strong local
25 connections and staff; and

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1 WHEREAS, each of these contracts was awarded for five
2 years and was valued at several hundred million dollars each;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, several northern New Mexico small businesses were
5 awarded subcontracts in 2012 and 2013 by Los Alamos national
6 security, limited liability company, the current management and
7 operating prime contractor; and

8 WHEREAS, the goal during the bid process was to award
9 these contracts to firms that understood Los Alamos national
10 laboratory's environmental programs; had the knowledge and
11 experience; had the technical personnel based in northern New
12 Mexico; and could best address the local clean-up goals; and

13 WHEREAS, to date, the contracts have not been used as
14 expected, bidding opportunities have been few and most of the
15 companies awarded the contracts have been forced to lay off
16 staff and are considering closing offices because of the lack
17 of environmental work; and

18 WHEREAS, preparing complicated proposals like those
19 submitted are expensive for small businesses, and the lack of
20 bidding opportunities directly affects their ability to
21 maintain thriving offices and personnel in northern New Mexico
22 and to contribute to the local economy and community; and

23 WHEREAS, clean-up commitments to New Mexico continue to be
24 delayed because of Los Alamos national laboratory's funding
25 priorities with limited budgets to remove transuranic waste

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1 from the laboratory's waste management site, and, most
2 recently, because of an accident in which a drum packed with
3 plutonium waste in Los Alamos later ruptured while stored at
4 the waste isolation pilot plant in southeastern New Mexico; and

5 WHEREAS, investigations and recovery from the plutonium
6 waste spill are anticipated to take years for the United States
7 department of energy and those responsible to resolve; and

8 WHEREAS, during the same time period, almost all other
9 environmental work at Los Alamos national laboratory has
10 stopped; and

11 WHEREAS, the transition of the environmental mitigation
12 work from the national nuclear security administration to
13 environmental management oversight has the potential to further
14 negatively impact nearly half of the consortium of major Los
15 Alamos national laboratory subcontractor's collective
16 employees, their families and all residents of New Mexico;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the economic development department,
19 the workforce solutions department, the regional development
20 corporation, the regional coalition of Los Alamos national
21 laboratory communities and representatives of county, municipal
22 and tribal governments of north-central New Mexico be requested
23 to work with the consortium of major Los Alamos national
24 laboratory subcontractors to study the prospective impact of
25 the federal department of energy's decision to transition the

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1 environmental mitigation work at Los Alamos national laboratory
2 from the national nuclear security administration to
3 environmental management oversight and to identify strategies
4 to mitigate the impact on local New Mexico businesses; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional
6 delegation be requested to support efforts by state and local
7 stakeholders to maintain contracts awarded and to increase
8 local business procurement by federal department of energy
9 institutions; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional
12 delegation, the secretary of economic development, the
13 secretary of workforce solutions, the consortium of major Los
14 Alamos national laboratory subcontractors, the regional
15 development corporation, the regional coalition of Los Alamos
16 national laboratory communities, the boards of the county
17 commissioners of Rio Arriba, Santa Fe and Taos counties, the
18 mayor of the village of Chama, the mayor of the town of Taos
19 and the governors of the pueblos of Cochiti, Jemez, Kewa,
20 Nambe, San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, Picuris, Pojoaque, Taos and
21 Tesuque.