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SAM D. COBB
Mayor

April 17, 2023

To: Ricardo Maestas
New Mexico Environment Department
Ricardo.maestas@state.nm.us

Dear Mr. Maestas:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed changes to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's Renewal Draft Permit. I believe that the proposed changes are outside the scope of the department's authority over the federal program established by the Land Withdrawal Act.

To tether shipments from LANL to WIPP in a state permit and permitting the state to shutter WIPP for reasons that are not under WIPP's ability to control is an overreach of the state's rights in the operation of WIPP.

WIPP provides hundreds of jobs in Lea and Eddy County. The Department of Energy and the previous and current operators of the site have been excellent corporate partners with the cities and counties.

I urge the state to re-consider these changes to the Renewal Draft Permit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sam D. Cobb".

Sam D. Cobb
Mayor