



ANDERSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

TERRY FRANK
COUNTY MAYOR

June 16, 2026

Hon. James Kenney
Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Dr. Suite N4050
Santa Fe, NM 87505

RE: WIPP is Critical to Environmental Cleanup, and Restricting Shipments is Detrimental to the Collective Cleanup Mission

Dear Secretary Keeney,

I am writing on behalf of the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (ORRCA). ORRCA represents the counties of Anderson, Knox, Morgan and Roane, and the City of Oak Ridge in Tennessee, in cooperating on issues related to the United States Department of Energy's Environmental Management Program and activities.

We discussed the draft permit modification for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plan (WIPP) at our last meeting held on May 18, 2026, and a letter was requested by the organization for submission as public comment.

WIPP is important to our local communities, the State of Tennessee, and the nation. In fact, it is the linchpin for cleanup efforts across the entire EM complex. Its genesis and ongoing operations are critical to efforts to fulfill our national mission of cleaning up every site, including Los Alamos. From our local perspective, we are hopeful that you will strongly consider the serious threats to local communities should restrictions or reduction in waste shipments occur.

We seek to maintain progress on legacy waste cleanup and to protect jobs in our communities, and to work in partnership with New Mexico and other host communities to

achieve the goals we share. WIPP is essential to the communities in our Oak Ridge Reservation, and we are hopeful that no permit changes will be made that disrupt the crucial partnership that keeps the cleanup mission moving forward.

I appreciate the State of New Mexico, and all the people who work to operate WIPP for a cleaner America. We are counting on our continued accessibility to WIPP to improve the health and environment for the people of the Oak Ridge Reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terry Frank", with a large, sweeping flourish at the beginning.

Mrs. Terry Frank
Anderson County Mayor
Chair, ORRCA