Dear Governor Lujan Grisham,

Thanks for all you do to benefit and protect our wonderful state. We greatly appreciate the April 8 letter you wrote to Secretary Granholm asking for clarification on the many issues involved in the DOE’s current WIPP permit renewal application. By now you probably have heard that the Community Forum held in Santa Fe on July 7th, in partial response, to your letter was a fiasco that was disrespectful of both your good intentions, and your constituents.

We respectfully request that you require a real, and transparent Community Forum, in which DOE and WIPP officials engage in real and transparent dialogue with the public and address our concerns regarding the expansion of WIPP. That DOE plans an expansion of WIPP is obvious as only items contaminated with plutonium are authorized for disposal at WIPP, not plutonium waste itself, WIPP’s volume footprint will double in size, and DOE has decided not to be held to an end date in their current Permit Renewal Application.

On June 27, DOE officials informed the NM Environment Department that the plan is to keep WIPP open until at least 2083. Additionally, DOE officials have no plans for repositories in other states as was promised New Mexico in the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act. A true public Community Forum, in which members of your constituency can ask oral questions in a group situation and receive the pertinent answers they should rightly receive for being placed in the risky position that DOE proposes, is desperately needed.

This year, we are facing a WIPP’s permit renewal by the New Mexico Environment Department that could affect our well-being and the value of our property forever. We need honest answers and opportunities to voice our needs. Please join with me, and many other of your constituents, in our efforts to ensure that New Mexico does not become the nation’s nuclear waste dumping ground.

Most sincerely,

Your Name

Address

email