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STEVAN PEARCE

Second District, New Mexico

June 9, 2014

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Simpson,

I write today to discuss the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico. As you may know, the WIPP site experienced a radiological incident on February 14, 2014. This incident has resulted in the temporary closure of the facility. WIPP is the nation's only deep geologic repository for transuranic nuclear waste. Since operations began in 1999, WIPP has been vital to the Department of Energy's commitment to remediating defense sites nationwide. I thank you for your past support of this critical site, and the essential work Environmental Management within the Department of Energy does to make the United States safer.

As you work this week to craft the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill for the year to come, I request your continued support for WIPP. WIPP truly is a one of a kind site that serves the nation, not just the nuclear community. For the continued safety of our nation and the community in which WIPP resides, I ask that you work with my office, the New Mexico Delegation, and the Department of Energy to create a recovery plan that provides WIPP with the resources it needs to quickly and effectively reopen, so it may continue serving the nation.

Again, thank you for your continued work on behalf of WIPP and national security. I ask that you please provide this request with your every consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Pearce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Steve Pearce
Member of Congress