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Postmarked 10/17/02



DEAR MR. ZAPPE -

IT HAS RECENTLY COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT THE FEDERAL GOV'T (ENERGY DEPT.) WANTS TO AMEND THE PERMIT FOR THE WIPP (RADIOACTIVE WASTE DUMP NEAR CARLSBAD) TO ALLOW FOR THE "STORAGE" OF HIGH LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE, WHERE PRESENTLY ONLY LOW LEVEL WASTE IS PERMITTED.

THIS COMES AS NO SURPRISE TO ANYONE WHO WAS INVOLVED IN TRYING TO STOP THIS PROJECT TWENTY OR SO YEARS AGO. AT THAT TIME MANY PEOPLE FELT THAT HIGH LEVEL WASTE DISPOSAL WAS THE REAL GOAL OF THE ENERGY DEPT AND THAT ASSURANCES THAT THIS WAS TO BE ONLY LOW LEVEL WAS A "BAIT AND SWITCH" TACTIC. THIS KIND OF TACTIC IS VERY POPULAR WITH POLITICIANS WHO ARE TRYING TO PUSH THROUGH AN UNPOPULAR AND SELF SERVING AGENDA. ASK ANY NATIVE AMERICAN ABOUT THE FEDERAL GOV'T. "AMENDING" AGREEMENTS.

I STRONGLY URGE YOU AND THE NMED TO DO ALL YOU CAN TO DENY THE PERMIT CHANGE AND TO BLOCK ANY HIGH LEVEL WASTE STORAGE AT WIPP - REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL PRESSURE FINANCIAL PROMISES, OR BOGUS NATIONAL SECURITY CLAIMS.

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER AND FOR LOOKING OUT FOR THE WELL BEING OF THE CITIZENS OF NM.

SINCERELY -

Ray Lauder

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