

August 4, 2003

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510



Dear Senator Bingaman:

We are writing to ask for your support to delete section 310 of the Senate Energy & Water Appropriations Bill. That provision is an unwarranted attack on the State of New Mexico's regulatory authority, would threaten public health and safety of New Mexicans, and violates promises that you made to New Mexicans at the time of the passage of the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act to support state regulation.

We have briefly outlined our concerns about section 310 in the attached letter to Senator Domenici, who sponsored the provision. We would ask that you express your opposition to the provision to Senator Domenici and if he does not delete the provision, we would ask you to oppose section 310 on the Senate floor.

In addition, we would like to meet with you during the August recess to discuss this matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Don Hancock, Southwest Research and Information Center
Jean Garcia, Chaparral Community Health Council
Susan Dayton, Citizen Action
Deborah Reade and Mark Doppke, Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping
Elaine Cimino, Citizens for Environmental Safeguards
Mary Ann Benavidez, Colonias Development Council
Joni Arends, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety
Coila Ash, Creative Commotion: Voices for Social Change
Lisa B. Oppenheimer, Landfill Concerns Committee
Penelope McMullen, Loretto Community
Greg Mello, Los Alamos Study Group
Kimi Green, New Cycle Foundation
Stan Euston, Director of Environmental Programs, New Mexico Conference of Churches
Jay Coghlan, Nuclear Watch of New Mexico
Michael Guerrero, SouthWest Organizing Project
Jaime Chavez, Water Information Network

