



*RESOLUTION 2012-01:
"Support for the Mercury Storage Project at WIPP"*

Whereas the Department of Energy (DOE) is looking for long-term management and storage of about 10,000 metric tons of elemental mercury over a 40 year period, and

Whereas the Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008 bans the export of elemental mercury from the United States by 2013, and directs the DOE to have a facility ready by then to accept and store excess mercury sent to it from commercial mercury recyclers, gold mines that generate mercury as a by-product, and plants that use mercury as a catalyst, and

Whereas the DOE already manages and stores mercury that it owns, originating from national defense purposes at several sites across the country, and would consolidate its own Mercury with that received in the future from commercial sources, and

Whereas a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement was issued this month adding two more potential locations including one within the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act property and the second on federal land outside the LWA, and

Whereas the storage and transportation of such material will occur using proven and safe technologies

Whereas the mercury will be safely and securely stored in flasks and containers inside of a reinforced concrete warehouse (about 3.9 acres large), and separate from the WIPP waste handling facilities, and

Whereas this project will not interfere with WIPP's mission in any way and the storage facility proposed will be constructed separate from the WIPP TRU waste facilities, and

Whereas this project is expected to create 8 full time and 18 construction jobs,

Now therefore be it resolved that I, Jody Knox, President of the Board of Directors for the Carlsbad Department of Development, on this day of June 26, 2012, acting by order and on behalf of the Board of Directors, do hereby support an alternative that places the elemental mercury safely on the surface on property that is adjacent to or within the 16-square mile federally withdrawn land surrounding the WIPP site.

Jody Knox, President of the Board of Directors, Carlsbad Department of Development

