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RECEIVED  
United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Sally  
SUSAN Fey

October 24, 1985

The Honorable Toney Anaya  
Governor  
State of New Mexico  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Governor:

Thank you for your letter of October 8 in which you raise specific concerns regarding legislation currently being drafted by the U.S. Department of the Interior. This proposed legislation deals with the permanent withdrawal of federal lands underlying the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). We certainly understand your concern for assuring that the State's interests in this legislation are protected.

You specifically requested that the Department of Interior encourage Congressional hearings on the legislation. We certainly agree that such hearings should be held. In response to your letter, we have asked Secretary of Interior Hodel and Secretary of Energy Herrington to provide the New Mexico Congressional Delegation a briefing as soon as possible on the proposal. We would like the delegation to have an opportunity to know what the Departments are planning to propose in the legislation. We would certainly invite your office to be represented at this briefing.

Once the land withdrawal legislation is introduced, you can be assured that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing on the legislation. We will request testimony from all interested parties in the State.

With regard to the issue of the mission of WIPP, we have sought every opportunity in the Senate to reaffirm the limited mission of WIPP as a permanent repository for defense transuranic and low level waste with temporary placement of high level wastes for experimental purposes only. This

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limited mission was reaffirmed in a colloquy between Senator Jackson and Senator Bingaman during consideration of the Fiscal Year 1984 DOD Authorization Bill, in report language to the Fiscal Year 1985 DOD Authorization Bill, and in testimony by DOE officials before the Senate Energy Committee and the Senate Armed Services Committee.

We will continue our efforts to make sure this limited mission is respected and honored by the federal government. We will also, to the extent possible, seek protection of the other State interests you mentioned.

Thank you for your continued interest in this issue. We look forward to working with you on the legislation.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop at the top and a cursive 'Domenici' below it.

Pete Domenici  
U.S. Senator

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop at the top and a cursive 'Bingaman' below it.

Jeff Bingaman  
U.S. Senator