

Chairman Nils Diaz  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory  
Office of Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Diaz,

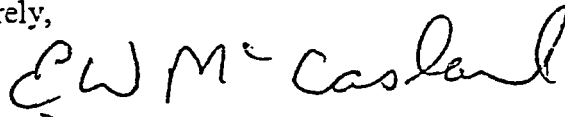
I am writing this letter to you in support of the National Enrichment Facility (NEF) building a new gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility in Lea County, NM. Proven to be safe and environmentally sound, the plant will provide the nation with a domestic source of enriched uranium for use in commercial nuclear power plants.

There are many positive benefits to the construction of this facility in Lea County:

- Many new jobs
- Education and training for employees
- Economic growth and diversification

Nuclear energy supplies approximately 20 percent of U.S. electricity and is the second greatest source of the nation's electricity after coal. Building a \$1.2 billion plant will have a positive economic impact on the residents of southeastern New Mexico and west Texas. NEF will be a most welcome asset.

Sincerely,

  
*C. W. McCardell*  
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CC: Governor Bill Richardson  
Secretary Ron Curry