

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

Dear Chairman Diaz,

I completely support the new gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility that will be built in Lea County, New Mexico. Developed by Urenco, Ltd., the technology that will be used by the National Enrichment Facility (NEF) has been in use for over 30 years. They are concerned as much about the safety and the environment of the area as are the residents of Lea County. This facility will be both safe and environmentally sound by using the world's most advanced energy-efficient and cost effective uranium enrichment technology.

This \$1.2 billion facility will have a positive impact on the southeastern section of New Mexico and west Texas. The NEF will help to diversify the region's current economic base, which today relies primarily on energy and extractive industries such as oil and gas production.

With safety issues and environmental concerns of utmost importance to the NEF, the project will also create new jobs with an estimated annual pay of \$10 million.

The National Enrichment Facility will be a welcome addition to the citizens of Lea County and I strongly support this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Bill Mapp
Executive Vice President

CC: Governor Bill Richardson
Secretary Ron Curry