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HOUSE MEMORIAL 71

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF NEW MEXICO'S NATIONAL LABORATORIES AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FACILITIES TO NEW MEXICO'S ECONOMIC WELFARE AND URGING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE STATE'S NATIONAL LABORATORIES AND DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FACILITIES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has been at the forefront of scientific endeavors for over seventy years and has achieved recognition as the home of the finest multi-program scientific research laboratories in the world; and

WHEREAS, the research laboratories have made an enormous contribution to the safety and national security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's national laboratories continue to

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1 spur innovation and industrial applications that benefit the
2 nation and private industry; and

3 WHEREAS, the waste isolation pilot plant has frequently
4 been lauded as one of the United States department of energy's
5 most compelling success stories due to its successful and safe
6 cleanup of legacy transuranic waste in twenty-two sites around
7 the country; and

8 WHEREAS, Los Alamos national laboratory and Sandia
9 national laboratories, together, annually purchase well over
10 one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) in goods and services from
11 suppliers in the state; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2013, Los Alamos national laboratory will
13 celebrate its seventieth anniversary; and

14 WHEREAS, Los Alamos national laboratory is crucial to New
15 Mexico's economic health, creating close to a three-billion-
16 dollar (\$3,000,000,000) impact on the state's economy each year
17 and supporting over twenty-four thousand jobs; and

18 WHEREAS, the direct, indirect and induced economic
19 activity associated with Los Alamos national laboratory's
20 operations and construction generated eighty-five million
21 dollars (\$85,000,000) in gross receipts tax revenues for the
22 state in 2012, and those tax revenues helped all areas of the
23 state; and

24 WHEREAS, Sandia national laboratories is vital to New
25 Mexico's economic health, employing approximately ten thousand

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1 regular and temporary employees, eight thousand of whom work at
2 the New Mexico site; and

3 WHEREAS, Sandia national laboratories' operations and
4 construction generated close to sixty-five million dollars
5 (\$65,000,000) in gross receipts tax revenues for the state in
6 2012; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2012, Sandia national laboratories expended
8 over two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) in
9 contract-related payments to New Mexico small business
10 suppliers; and

11 WHEREAS, the waste isolation pilot plant offers
12 professional, meaningful employment to thousands of New Mexico
13 residents; and

14 WHEREAS, these federal institutions recruit and employ a
15 significant portion of their work force from New Mexico's
16 higher education institutions; and

17 WHEREAS, for over ten years, New Mexico small businesses
18 have benefited from the New Mexico small business assistance
19 program, which allows them to access cutting-edge technologies,
20 solve technical challenges and gain knowledge from laboratory
21 experts at Los Alamos national laboratory and Sandia national
22 laboratories; and

23 WHEREAS, New Mexico is highly dependent on federal
24 spending in the area of nuclear technology and throughout the
25 state's economy, and the threat of deep automatic federal

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1 spending cuts or "sequestration" may cause tens of thousands of
2 New Mexicans to lose their jobs through direct and indirect job
3 losses at Los Alamos national laboratory, Sandia national
4 laboratories and the waste isolation pilot plant, and those job
5 losses would have cascading negative impacts on the statewide
6 economy;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the members of
9 the New Mexico congressional delegation be urged to support
10 continued or increased federal funding for New Mexico's
11 national laboratories and United States department of energy
12 facilities so that they can continue their national missions
13 and remain critical partners in the economic welfare of New
14 Mexico; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional
17 delegation, the United States secretary of energy, the Carlsbad
18 field office of the United States department of energy, the
19 director of Los Alamos national laboratory, the director of
20 Sandia national laboratories, the manager of the waste
21 isolation pilot plant and the governor.