September 14, 2018

By email: <u>the.secretary@hq.doe.gov</u>

The Honorable Rick Perry, Secretary U.S. Department of Energy 1000 Independence Avenue Washington, DC 20585

## Re: Request for Three Public Hearings in New Mexico to Address DOE Order 140.1 *Interface with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board*

Dear Secretary Perry:

I am a resident of New Mexico – the location of three key Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear facilities – Los Alamos National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. I rely on the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board to provide oversight and reporting about issues impacting worker and public health and safety at these facilities.

I am concerned that in May 2018 DOE released its new Order 140.1 *Interface with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board* without providing public notice and opportunity for public comment. The Order restricts the Board's access to personnel, information, and defense nuclear facilities, such as the three in New Mexico.

I support the call by U.S. Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich of New Mexico for DOE to immediately suspend the implementation of DOE Order 140.1 so that members of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Congress, and the public have an opportunity to "review and offer construction feedback on how to maintain and enhance the board's critical safety role."

I respectfully request DOE hold three public meetings in New Mexico to explain DOE Order 140.1, as well as provide opportunity for public comment in communities neighboring the three DOE sites in New Mexico, specifically in Española, Albuquerque, and Carlsbad.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely, Mona Ruark



cc: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board at hearing@dnfsb.gov