

NRCREP Resource

From: Connie Johnson [CJohnson@aci-nm.org]
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2008 1:03 PM
To: NRCREP Resource
Subject: Letter from the Association of Commerce and Industry for NRC Hearing
Attachments: Chief, Rules & Directive Branch.docx

Hello,

Please find a letter attached from Dr. Beverlee J. McClure, President and CEO of the Association of Commerce and Industry concerning uranium mining in the State of New Mexico.

Thank you,

Connie Johnson
Executive Assistant
Association of Commerce and Industry
505-842-0644

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September 10, 2008

Chief, Rules and Directive Branch
Division of Administrative Services
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chief:

The Association of Commerce and Industry of New Mexico is writing to you to express its support for the return of uranium mining in the state. The ACI is requesting your assistance in educating the general public on the issue of uranium mining and the potential for an economic windfall for all New Mexicans.

As you know, New Mexico served as a top U.S. uranium production area and today the state stands to gain several billions of dollars in royalties and tax revenues. In addition the regional economy will receive a much needed boost to the tax base when the estimated 3,000 plus jobs begin working at the proposed mines.

The member companies that make up the New Mexico uranium industry have acknowledged the environmental and health safety legacy issues that surrounded the previous mining cycle. However, it is important to note that modern mining techniques and regulatory requirements with an emphasis on safety and environmental protection have changed significantly in the last 50 years. This past legislative session, the New Mexico Senate along with industry support passed a bill requiring uranium companies to contribute money from future operations into a fund dedicated to reclamation of abandoned mine sites. Although Governor Richardson vetoed the bill, the industry will work with his staff to draft a bill that requires uranium mining companies to provide the capital needed to restore abandoned mines.

Moreover, the uranium mining industry understands that its future rests on extraction operations that are safe, clean and responsible to workers, the public and the environment.

Many New Mexicans are excited about the economic opportunities and possibilities that lie ahead for our state with the return of uranium mining in the Grants Mineral Belt. With your support, New Mexico has the potential to position itself as a leading force in solving our nation's energy problems by further meeting our energy demands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Beverlee J. McClure'.

Dr. Beverlee J. McClure
President
Association of Commerce & Industry