



REGIONAL COALITION of LANL COMMUNITIES

City of Española - Pueblo of Jemez - Los Alamos County - Ohkay Owingeh
Rio Arriba County - Santa Fe County - City of Santa Fe - Taos County - Town of Taos

June __ , 2020

Senator Udall, Senator Heinrich and Congressman Lujan,

On behalf of our local communities in New Mexico that live in the proximity of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities (RCLC), our region's local government organization that deals directly with DOE related issues,

We are writing to strongly support a one-time \$[7.25] billion increase in funding for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) program, including funding for legacy cleanup priorities at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), as the federal government looks to stimulate the economy from the impacts of COVID-19.

As you well know, in 2009 the United States Congress appropriated a similar stimulus bill during that financial crisis, and over \$200 million was allocated to legacy waste projects at LANL. Like then, the EM money appropriated and expended at LANL provides a cost-effective method to reducing one of the country's largest environmental and financial liabilities. Furthermore, this investment is an economic driver for the state and northern New Mexico in particular, creating household wealth and a standard of living that would not exist without it.

In the midst of this unprecedented crisis, it is more important than ever to provide local funding that will **(1) create jobs in some of the regions impacted most by COVID-19, (2) provide meaningful, measurable economic impact beyond job creation; (3) revive the small business community; (4) support our national defense, and (4) meet our Nation's infrastructure and cleanup goals.**

DOE has already identified numerous Office of Environmental Management priority projects that are ready to proceed should funding become available. Further, the funding to support these projects can incentivize job training, small business participation, and community development. This means the program is well placed to identify and begin work immediately on a significant number of priority projects and infrastructure improvements. Many of the EM sites are co-

located with DOE national labs, where acceleration of the environmental cleanup liabilities will support future essential laboratory missions in the areas of scientific discovery and nuclear security.

At LANL, these projects include: accelerating the implementation of TRU waste processing capabilities and supporting TA-21 facility D&D and remediation activities.

We hope that you will strongly consider supporting this important infusion of funding to our legacy cleanup projects throughout the country and here at home. It is the right thing to do in this time that will have lasting effects for our environment, our communities, and our national security.

Henry Roybal, RCLC Board Chairman
Commissioner, Santa Fe
