



September 25, 2015

U.S. Senator Tom Udall  
U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich  
U.S. Congressman Steve Pearce  
U.S. Congressman Ben Ray Lujan  
U.S. Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham

Dear Members of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation:

I write to you on behalf of the New Mexico Association of Commerce and Industry (ACI). ACI is New Mexico's statewide business advocate, representing hundreds of employers and over 50,000 employees throughout the state of New Mexico. Led entirely by our member businesses, ACI advocates for local, federal, and state policies for a stronger and more vibrant New Mexico economy.

On behalf of New Mexico's business community, ACI would like to express our strong support for those New Mexico businesses supporting Department of Energy (DOE) and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) missions at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). As you well know, LANL plays a key role in the statewide economy, in large part due to the contracts held by local businesses. ACI supports the efforts of the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities (RCLC) in their ongoing efforts to ensure our New Mexico business are given a fair opportunity to compete for federal contracts.

During a recent statewide listening tour focused on jobs in New Mexico, it came to our attention that numerous local businesses are at risk of losing contracts due to procurement practices within DOE's centralized procurement system, the Supply Chain Management Center (SCMC). This threat, which has appeared despite impressive efforts by these New Mexico contractors to remain competitive and in compliance with procurement standards, would be devastating to our state's economy.

It is important both to the New Mexicans whose jobs rely upon these contracts, and to LANL's national security mission, that local contractors are able to compete for these contracts. The DOE's own code of Federal Regulations (Doe CFR 970.5226-3) acknowledges the importance of partnering with the geographic region in which DOE operates. New Mexico businesses have a long and impressive history of meeting LANL's needs, and with that history comes unique relationships, experience, and resources to provide an outstanding return on taxpayer investment.

ACI supports requirements that the NNSA and DOE, including the SCMC, be required to engage only in an open bid process in which all qualifying business can bid. We further hold that procurement decisions must be based upon more than price alone, so that best overall value and return on investment are considered. The businesses in New Mexico who have provide world-class goods and services to our national labs for decades deserve a fair chance to compete. But we cannot take these jobs and opportunities for granted. Thousands of New Mexico families are counting on our leaders to take a firm, proactive approach to protect our communities.



On behalf of those of New Mexicans whose jobs rely upon a thriving and vibrant business community supporting our national laboratories, thank you for your continued work and support in this area.

Please don't hesitate to contact ACI if we can provide any support or information on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Espinoza', is written over a light blue, semi-transparent watermark of the NIMACI logo.

Jason Espinoza, President

CC:

Regional Coalition of LANL Communities

Los Alamos Commerce and Development Corporation