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## Statement of Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety to the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future

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My name is Joni Arends and I am a co-founder and the Executive Director of Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. CCNS formed in 1988 to address community concerns about the proposed transportation of nuclear waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory to the then proposed Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

Since our founding, we have been involved in all aspect of the WIPP. We have participated in hundreds of Environmental Protection Agency and New Mexico Environment Department public meetings about regulatory processes, as well as Department of Energy meetings about the National Environmental Policy Act.

We participated in the original WIPP permitting process in 1998; in the extensive negotiations about remote-handled waste in 2006; and the most recent permit renewal process.

Based on that experience, we would like to talk about "informed consent." As Mr. Bearzi stated yesterday, "informed consent" is too strong a phrase; rather, it's a decision that "we can live with it."

It can be a difficult decision to sit at the negotiation table. Some of our NGO colleagues criticize us as sell-outs. An NGO must weigh a number of factors, including what may be gained or lost; whether we support the position of the regulators or DOE, or whether to promote another position; and how best to use our limited resources for the time-consuming process.

And it is especially ominous when former Senator Domenici's namesake is representing DOE and the federal contractors.

Part of "we can live with it" also involves representing those that are not sitting at the table, whether it is people living along the transportation routes, or those living downriver from the WIPP site. But there is a silent group that has neither voice nor representation and that is the future generations who will have to live with the decisions that we make today. This waste was generated to protect the nation, but we are placing the burden of that security on future generations, who may or may not have benefited from it. Considering the impact

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on future generations is as challenging as it can get; it presents deep moral and philosophical questions. It requires placing future generations at the table in the best way that we can.

Therefore, CCNS respectfully requests that the Commission add a seat at your table for future generations and that they are included in all of your recommendations to President Obama. Thank you.