

[Insert Date]

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am **[fill in: 1-2 sentences introducing yourself, tribal affiliation, credentials, etc]**.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

[Add in: *personal narratives ,connections to this region, and/or experiences with past uranium mining activities. If none, delete section*]

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

[Name]