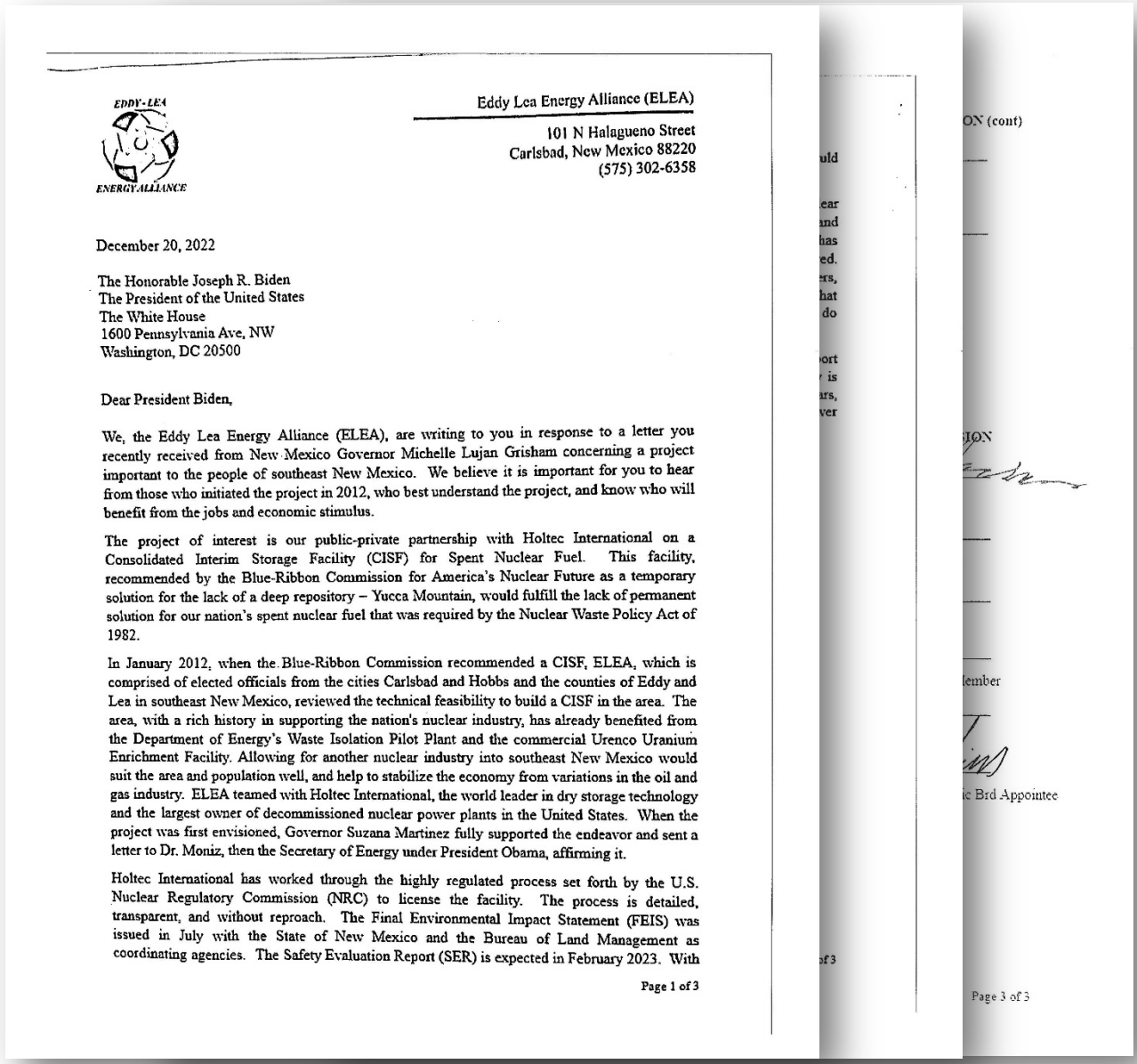
Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-JAN-027R Ratifying a Letter to President Biden Expressing Support of the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance and Holtec International Consolidated Interim Storage Facility



EDDY-LEA ENERGY ALLIANCE

Eddy Lea Energy Alliance (ELEA)
101 N Halagueno Street
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220
(575) 302-6358

December 20, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

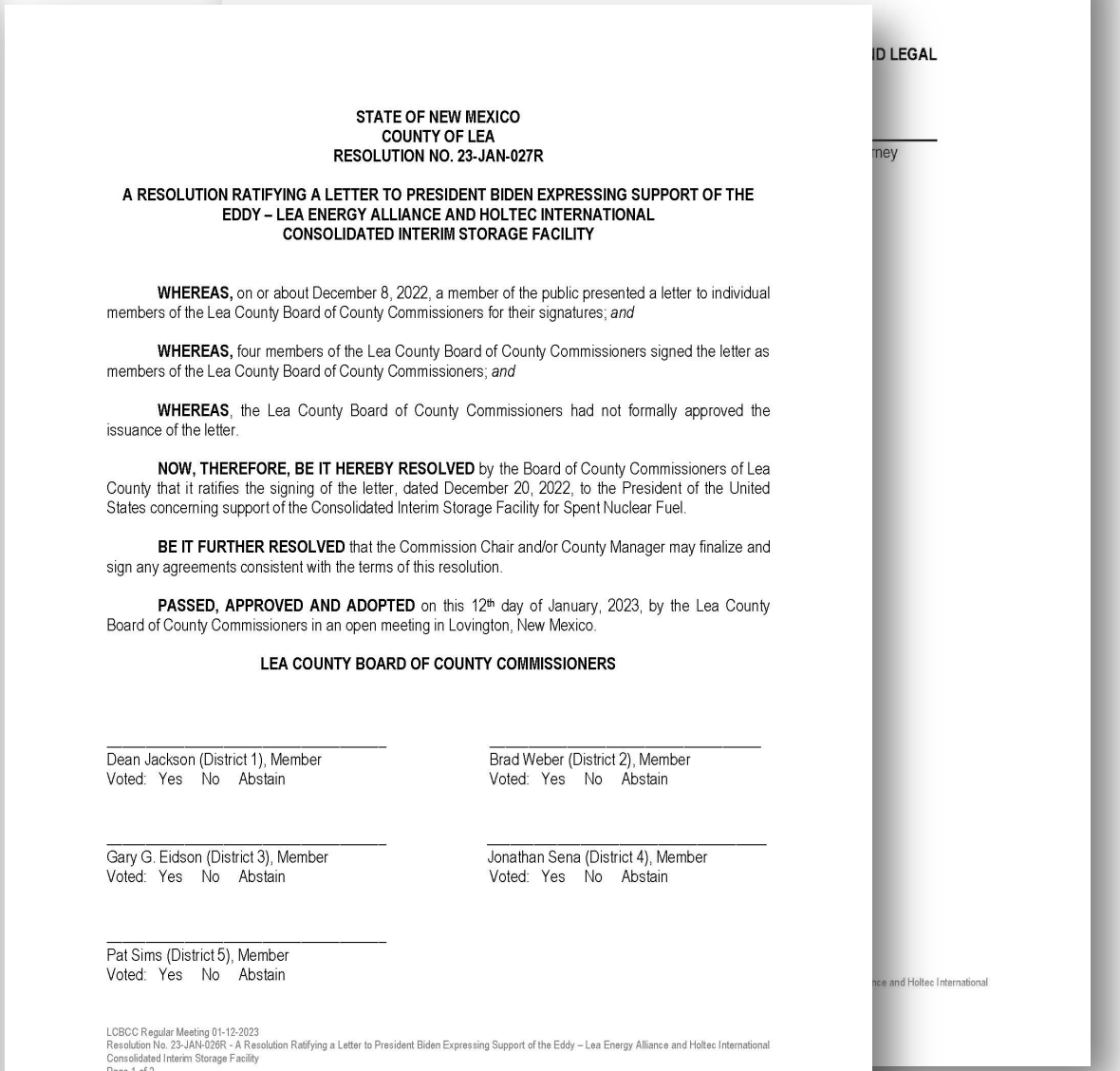
We, the Eddy Lea Energy Alliance (ELEA), are writing to you in response to a letter you recently received from New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham concerning a project important to the people of southeast New Mexico. We believe it is important for you to hear from those who initiated the project in 2012, who best understand the project, and know who will benefit from the jobs and economic stimulus.

The project of interest is our public-private partnership with Holtec International on a Consolidated Interim Storage Facility (CISF) for Spent Nuclear Fuel. This facility, recommended by the Blue-Ribbon Commission for America's Nuclear Future as a temporary solution for the lack of a deep repository – Yucca Mountain, would fulfill the lack of permanent solution for our nation's spent nuclear fuel that was required by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

In January 2012, when the Blue-Ribbon Commission recommended a CISF, ELEA, which is comprised of elected officials from the cities Carlsbad and Hobbs and the counties of Eddy and Lea in southeast New Mexico, reviewed the technical feasibility to build a CISF in the area. The area, with a rich history in supporting the nation's nuclear industry, has already benefited from the Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and the commercial Urenco Uranium Enrichment Facility. Allowing for another nuclear industry into southeast New Mexico would suit the area and population well, and help to stabilize the economy from variations in the oil and gas industry. ELEA teamed with Holtec International, the world leader in dry storage technology and the largest owner of decommissioned nuclear power plants in the United States. When the project was first envisioned, Governor Suzana Martinez fully supported the endeavor and sent a letter to Dr. Moniz, then the Secretary of Energy under President Obama, affirming it.

Holtec International has worked through the highly regulated process set forth by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to license the facility. The process is detailed, transparent, and without reproach. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was issued in July with the State of New Mexico and the Bureau of Land Management as coordinating agencies. The Safety Evaluation Report (SER) is expected in February 2023. With

Page 1 of 3



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF LEA
RESOLUTION NO. 23-JAN-027R

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING A LETTER TO PRESIDENT BIDEN EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF THE EDDY – LEA ENERGY ALLIANCE AND HOLTEC INTERNATIONAL CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STORAGE FACILITY

WHEREAS, on or about December 8, 2022, a member of the public presented a letter to individual members of the Lea County Board of County Commissioners for their signatures; *and*

WHEREAS, four members of the Lea County Board of County Commissioners signed the letter as members of the Lea County Board of County Commissioners; *and*

WHEREAS, the Lea County Board of County Commissioners had not formally approved the issuance of the letter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Lea County that it ratifies the signing of the letter, dated December 20, 2022, to the President of the United States concerning support of the Consolidated Interim Storage Facility for Spent Nuclear Fuel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission Chair and/or County Manager may finalize and sign any agreements consistent with the terms of this resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 12th day of January, 2023, by the Lea County Board of County Commissioners in an open meeting in Lovington, New Mexico.

LEA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Dean Jackson (District 1), Member
Voted: Yes No Abstain

Brad Weber (District 2), Member
Voted: Yes No Abstain

Gary G. Eidson (District 3), Member
Voted: Yes No Abstain

Jonathan Sena (District 4), Member
Voted: Yes No Abstain

Pat Sims (District 5), Member
Voted: Yes No Abstain

LEA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM

LCBCC Meeting Date: Thursday, January 12, 2023

Submit this summary form & all attachments to agenda@leacounty.net by:

Tuesday, January 3, 2023 BY 12:00 P.M

County Manager Approval required for all time sensitive issues that do not meet the above deadline.

DATE SUBMITTED mm-dd-yyyy: 01/09/2023	**SUBMITTED BY** Name, Title, Dept: Mike Gallagher, County Manager
SUBJECT: Ratify a letter to President Biden Expressing Support of the ELEA and Holtec International Consolidated Interim Storage Facility	**ATTACHMENT(S):** Resolution No. 23-JAN-027R
NO. OF ORIGINALS FOR SIGNATURE: 1 Resolution	**ACTION REQUESTED:** Action Item
BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER: N/A	**FISCAL BUDGET YEAR:** N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN Implementation of 5 Year Strategic Plan:

Section 2.1: Collaboration & partnership with local communities, agencies and government entities is essential for success.
Section 2.8: Continuous interaction with the State of New Mexico and statewide organizations is required to protect the County's interests.

SUMMARY:

On or about December 8, 2022, a member of the public presented a letter to individual members of the Lea County Board of County Commissioners for their signatures.

Four members of the Lea County Board of County Commissioners signed the letter as members of the Lea County Board of County Commissioners.

The Lea County Board of County Commissioners had not formally approved the issuance of the letter.

Request that the Board of County Commissioners of Lea County ratify the signing of the letter, dated December 20, 2022, to the President of the United States concerning support of the Consolidated Interim Storage Facility for Spent Nuclear Fuel.

Requested Items Needed for Presentation Easels/Laptop/Projector/Etc.: Easel ☐ If checked; how many: Laptop ☑ Projector ☑ Other:	**See Additional Summary Attached** ☑
SUBMITTER'S RECOMMENDATION(S): Ratify Letter to President Biden	**Submitter's Signature** Department Director, Etc.
FINANCE REVIEW Fiscal Impact/Cost:	**Reviewed by Finance Director**
LEGAL REVIEW: (Note: Travel does not need legal review)	**Reviewed by County Attorney**
COUNTY MANAGER REVIEW:	**Approved by County Manager** to be Placed on Agenda Mike Gallagher

Item No. 0307 **RECORDING SECRETARY'S USE ONLY ~ COMMISSION ACTION TAKEN**

Approved: _____ Denied: _____ Other: _____
Resolution No. 23-JAN-027R Policy No. _____ Ordinance No. _____
Continued To: _____ Referred To: _____ Comments: _____

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF LEA
RESOLUTION NO. 23-JAN-027R

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING A LETTER TO PRESIDENT BIDEN EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF THE EDDY – LEA ENERGY ALLIANCE AND HOLTEC INTERNATIONAL CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STORAGE FACILITY

WHEREAS, on or about December 8, 2022, a member of the public presented a letter to individual members of the Lea County Board of County Commissioners for their signatures; *and*

WHEREAS, four members of the Lea County Board of County Commissioners signed the letter as members of the Lea County Board of County Commissioners; *and*

WHEREAS, the Lea County Board of County Commissioners had not formally approved the issuance of the letter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Lea County that it ratifies the signing of the letter, dated December 20, 2022, to the President of the United States concerning support of the Consolidated Interim Storage Facility for Spent Nuclear Fuel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission Chair and/or County Manager may finalize and sign any agreements consistent with the terms of this resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 12th day of January, 2023, by the Lea County Board of County Commissioners in an open meeting in Lovington, New Mexico.

LEA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

_____
Dean Jackson (District 1), Member
Voted: Yes No Abstain

_____
Brad Weber (District 2), Member
Voted: Yes No Abstain

_____
Gary G. Eidson (District 3), Member
Voted: Yes No Abstain

_____
Jonathan Sena (District 4), Member
Voted: Yes No Abstain

_____
Pat Sims (District 5), Member
Voted: Yes No Abstain

ATTEST: Keith Manes
Lea County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

By: _____
Cynthia Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

_____
John W. Caldwell, County Attorney

EDDY-LEA ENERGY ALLIANCE

Eddy Lea Energy Alliance (ELEA)

101 N Halagueno Street
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220
(575) 302-6358

December 20, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We, the Eddy Lea Energy Alliance (ELEA), are writing to you in response to a letter you recently received from New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham concerning a project important to the people of southeast New Mexico. We believe it is important for you to hear from those who initiated the project in 2012, who best understand the project, and know who will benefit from the jobs and economic stimulus.

The project of interest is our public-private partnership with Holtec International on a Consolidated Interim Storage Facility (CISF) for Spent Nuclear Fuel. This facility, recommended by the Blue-Ribbon Commission for America's Nuclear Future as a temporary solution for the lack of a deep repository – Yucca Mountain, would fulfill the lack of permanent solution for our nation's spent nuclear fuel that was required by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

In January 2012, when the Blue-Ribbon Commission recommended a CISF, ELEA, which is comprised of elected officials from the cities Carlsbad and Hobbs and the counties of Eddy and Lea in southeast New Mexico, reviewed the technical feasibility to build a CISF in the area. The area, with a rich history in supporting the nation's nuclear industry, has already benefited from the Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and the commercial Urenco Uranium Enrichment Facility. Allowing for another nuclear industry into southeast New Mexico would suit the area and population well, and help to stabilize the economy from variations in the oil and gas industry. ELEA teamed with Holtec International, the world leader in dry storage technology and the largest owner of decommissioned nuclear power plants in the United States. When the project was first envisioned, Governor Suzana Martinez fully supported the endeavor and sent a letter to Dr. Moniz, then the Secretary of Energy under President Obama, affirming it.

Holtec International has worked through the highly regulated process set forth by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to license the facility. The process is detailed, transparent, and without reproach. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was issued in July with the State of New Mexico and the Bureau of Land Management as coordinating agencies. The Safety Evaluation Report (SER) is expected in February 2023. With

the FEIS and SER issued, a license for the construction and operation of the facility should follow shortly thereafter.

We ask you to allow the U.S. NRC to complete their function as the United States' nuclear regulatory body – to issue a license if warranted. Governor Lujan Grisham's technical and environmental concerns will be addressed in the licensing documents. Since 2012, there has been strong support for the facility in southeast New Mexico. The support has never wavered. Holtec International has educated our elected officials, emergency managers, first responders, and the general public. The only support that has wavered during the licensing process is that from Santa Fe. This is the crux of consent-based siting – how to move beyond the politics to do what is right for the community most invested in the project.

We ask that you not only allow the U.S. NRC to complete the licensing process but to support this facility at the federal level, through the Department of Energy. The proposed facility is wanted by the citizens of southeast New Mexico, will save the Nation tens of billions of dollars, and will help pave the way for more stable green power from our Nation's nuclear power industry. We stand ready to answer any questions and to brief you on our project.

With Great Respect,

The Eddy Lea Energy Alliance

SIGNED AS FOLLOWS:

CARLSBAD CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Dale Janway

Edward Rodriquez, Mayor Pro-Tem

Jeff Forrest

J. J. Chavez

Karla Hamel Niemeier

HOBBS CITY COMMISSION

Mayor Sam Cobb, ELEA Chairman

R. Finn Smith, ELEA Brd Member

Christopher Mills

Larron Fields

Joseph Calderon

CARLSBAD CITY COUNCIL (cont)

Judith Waters

Wesley Carter, ELEA Brd Member

Mark Walterscheid

John Heaton, ELEA Brd Appointee Vice Chair

HOBBS CITY COMMISSION (cont)

Dwane Penick

Don R. Gerth

EDDY COUNTY COMMISSION

Steven McCutcheon, Chairman; ELEA Brd Member

Ernie Carlson

Jon Henry

Fred Beard

Sarah Cordova

Susan Crockett, ELEA Public Brd Appointee

LEA COUNTY COMMISSION

Dean Jackson, Chairman

Gary Eidson, Vice Chairman

Rebecca Long

Jonathan Sena, ELEA Brd Member

Pat Sims

Mike Gallagher, ELEA Public Brd Appointee

cc: The Hon. Jennifer Granholm, U.S. Department of Energy Secretary

The Hon. New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

The Hon. Christopher Hanson, Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chair