

Heather Wilson
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Wilson Statement After NM Labs All-Hands Meetings Thursday

NM Rep. concerned about effect of House Bill on lab personnel and stockpile stewardship programs

Washington, DC - Congresswoman Heather Wilson today issued the following statement after employees at Los Alamos and Sandia National Labs were called into "All Hands" meetings to discuss possible budget impacts over the coming year. Wilson opposed the House Energy and Water budget bill that slashes the budgets for both national labs based in New Mexico.

"The labs are taking the right steps to plan for possible budget impacts. We will work hard to make sure this doesn't happen. But lab directors have to be realistic about the possibility," said Wilson today.

"It's clear that the New Mexico impact of the House-passed bill would be devastating to Los Alamos and would have serious impact at Sandia. I will do everything I can to stop the House bill from becoming law. The lay-offs would be significant."

The National Security impact of the House bill would include:

- < Cancellation of laboratory and flight testing in the Stockpile Evaluation program resulting in a reduced confidence in the safety, security and reliability of the nation's nuclear stockpile.
- < Canceling the dismantlement of retired nuclear weapons.
- < Inability to meet production schedules for limited life components which are required to sustain current stockpile reliability.
- < Inability to fix known aging problems in the stockpile.
- < Loss of critical personnel who have experience in nuclear weapons work.