

# April 3, 2023 Indivisible Meeting Notes

Talking about...

## ABOUT HYPE

We need a positive way to get the word out in the inflation reduction act. For instance, the largest environmental bill in this nation and nobody's talking about it. So since no one is talking about it, we will. That's Hype.

## ISSUES IMPORTANT TO US

- Miranda and her idea about guns to garden tools. Can we do something like this?
- Supreme Court enlarging?
  - Jana doesn't think it fixes the problem. The dynamics won't change unless we do things to control the court.
  - Elections matter. It depends on who is in office and gets a shot at appointing.
  - Lifetime appointment is a constitutional issue. We would have to change this if we wanted to impose time limits.
  - Supremacy clause -Marberry vs Madison
- Faith: There are two orgs dedicated to gun violence and hook up with them.
  - Site Santa Fe - turning guns into musical instruments.
  - Gabby Giffords plus Sandy Hook are doing things for guns.
  - Gun owners - only 20% of gun owners are member of the NRA
- Jan - does Indivisible have report cards on legislators and their votes? League of Women Voters has a report card.
- Roberta - is there an org that has clout as much as NRA to care about to counte
- Dottie - focus on local. We should focus on Miranda V
- Roberta - we have to go state by state.
- Dottie - we should spend time on stuff before the next election.
- Robera: child witness, comprehensive modernizing. Looking at the constitution and how other states.

## Cindy Weehler, Co Chair 285 Alliance and member of Stop WIPP Forever

- There seems to be a collected amnesia about nuclear waste
- Holtec
  - Commercial waste repository that a private company wanted to bring to NM.
  - Waste to NM 100 tons to leave it here a little while.
  - Problem is that at the end of their license, they will walk away and we will have stranded waste.
  - This happened in Texas where the gov signed and said NO! . Went to court and is still in court.
  - 3 years have tried to get it through. SB 53 - says that no facility like this can come unless NM consents.
  - Bill appoints a task force and oversees things; the Feds can put it wherever they want - every state has ways to get around it.
  - NM - we may not be able to control - the Feds can't take that away from us. This bill denies Holtecs permits. Holtec won't be able to build containers and other things.

- Holtec is commercial: all the waste from nuke. It's called high level waste and the worst. They want to bring by rail
- WIPP
  - nuclear weapons waste and not as bad as Holtec but...
  - Transuranic waste - this is WIPP. This is all man made and radioactive.
  - It's mostly plutonium 239. Not immediately radioactive as the high level waste.
  - Other countries call this high level. We call it True Waste.
  - Won't bother your hand if you hold it but can cause if inhaled.
  - Plutonium at WIPP is diluted. Mixed up with the materials (clothing tools sludges, etc.) Smaller parts per amount. Pure P is not allowed.
  - P239 is a huge part of nuke waste. 239 is an isotope.
  - DOE is violating state and fed law by changing dates.
  - Several facilities are or proposed
    - WIPP in operation since 1999 and close to Carlsbad.
  - Original WIPP mission :
    - Only operating underground nuke repository in US. No commercial. When NM negotiated with Fed - it included limits.
    - WIPP is pilot plant that is supposed to be one of many around the country.
    - Volume is limited down to the cubic foot. 6. 2 million cubic feet. Rooms are the length of 3 football fields. They were supposed to stop taking waste in 2024.
    - Only can take transuranics. Mostly P.
    - WIPP takes P that is contaminated from Nuke Weapons.
    - Does not take a nuke pit. It contains pure metallic.
    - These limits are still in place.
    - To LANL to waste route to 285 down to WIPP. LANL packages the waste and places into a panel. Designed to protect the drums from traffic accidents.
    - How do we know that DOE has changed the mission?
      - Fed Registry: DOE published a notice of intent. Recently released an environmental impact program. They haven't spoken about it publicly.
      - We haven't gotten the DOE and NNSC publicly issued new permit request.
      - increase volume is a concern
      - DOE wants to build out WIPP and this will be twice as large.
      - How can they build out in time for 2024. New permit has not date - 2083?
      - Most of this waste is at Pantex. Truck to LA for processing. Then to Savana River Site for more processing. And then back somewhere.
        - No longer legacy waste. **It will be pure P from the pits.**
        - Pantex to LA (through SANTA FE). It is oxidized to P powder.
        - Comes back to LA. 5 pueblos. Passes farms and ranches
        - . When it gets to Amarillo. 11 states. For more than 50% not to be True Wast
- Office of secure transportation. Somewhat reinforced. LA Times 2017 wrote a story about the state of the trucks and the drivers. No \$ . High level member of this depart said you have something to be concerned about.
- Sandia Labs said that particulate P almost impossible to clean up. . Have to be abandoned.
- Health effects: so fine and silty. If released it is quickly carried into lungs. Gets lodged in lung tissue. Cancer of the liver, lungs, bones, brain and gonads.

- Int'l Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War says that this causes cancer 100% of the time if inhaled. This would be a problem for emergency crews.
- Packaging. - 1, first metal container. 2, then in a plastic bag, and then in another container. They are finding that the plastic bags degrade.

What promises has DOE broken?

1. No re's built w/ other states
2. Volume increased
3. No date for end
4. Analyzing risk? Volume, time, distance and your waste is more dangerous - then as adults, we know that accidents happen. Will be catastrophic.

What to do?

- Build more R's near the waste
- Make DOE follow the laws. NM needs to say no.
- Clean up problems as LANL
- Fed wants to make 30 P pits in LANL and 50 in SC. Why make more when we can't handle what we have.
- If this is released, you can't go out. Shelter in place.
- Right now, transportation is the biggest issue.
- To the point, why don't you keep it where it is? I can speak to how it affects me. So I have standing.
- What would protect people? An N 95 might do it. High level waste shoots through your body.
- Tuesday's meeting -need people to come in person!!!!
- Permit has been presented to NM environ dept. DOE has asked. We are trying to get Environmental Dept to say no.
- NM Environ Website - the person who tells them what to do is the Gov.
- Press conf last year March 1 delivered petitions. Gov sent a letter to Jennifer Granholm who said these are my constituents and you need to do something.
- This Feb we went to Roundhouse with a name of the towns affected.
- Making videos messages to Gov. Long stream running tomorrow night.
- Chris - analysis of cost to move it from LANL. LANL is the only place to do the processing.
- Gloria -if their contract expires next year? Where does the legacy waste go? We think it should go to WIPP. Legacy waste is under tarps in forests.
- But it has to go somewhere? Some of the waste comes from other states. The Permian Basin is the third largest place in the world.