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**Testimony of Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury**  
**Before the House Armed Services Committee**  
**Member Day Hearing on the National Defense Authorization Act of 2026**  
**May 20, 2025**

Thank you, Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the House Committee on Armed Services, for the opportunity to provide a statement for the record outlining my priorities for the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). I also want to thank this committee for working with me, alongside Congressman Gabe Vasquez, last year to include report language in the FY25 NDAA regarding two major issues that impact our districts: unexploded ordnances (UXO) and munitions demining at the Pueblo of Isleta and addressing a long-standing jet fuel plume at Kirtland Air Force Base. I commend this committee for continuing to provide space for bipartisan work that makes a tangible difference in the lives of our constituents. As the Committee begins the profoundly important work of supporting our servicemembers and their families and bolstering our national security through the annual NDAA reauthorization process, I write with two main policy requests to address these two long-standing waste clean up issues in my district.

**UXO and Munitions Demining**

In the FY26 NDAA, I hope to build on our previous work to ensure timely, coordinated support for the Pueblo of Isleta and other tribes to remove UXOs and munitions from their lands. Decades of weapons testing resulted in UXOs, munitions, and debris being abandoned across approximately 30,000 acres of the Pueblo's lands, due to its proximity to Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) and Sandia National Laboratories (SNL). Some of these munitions are the result of World War II era testing activities conducted directly by the Department of Defense (DoD). Others are related to testing activities conducted by SNL, in coordination with the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), as a contractor of the Department of Energy (DOE), which have continued up to as recently as the 1990s. Many are unmarked munitions that the DOE via NNSA, and DoD via U.S. Army Corps (USACE) are responsible for coordinating, identifying, and removing. But because of the amount of time that has passed and number of agencies that have tested near the Pueblo's lands, it is frequently a lengthy and complicated process to identify and remove the munitions. I seek your support in making this process more efficient, and ensuring the safety of tribal members who are living near these UXOs and munitions.

Specifically, I am writing with three main requests for FY26 NDAA related to the clean up of UXOs and munitions on Isleta Pueblo's land:

1. Continue to authorize NALEMP at steady funding levels.
2. Require a coordinated records review between DOD, USACE, DOE and NNSA that would clarify responsibility for the munitions cleanup process. Request a joint briefing within 30 days from DOD, USACE, DOE and NNSA to this Committee on their plans to coordinate records reviews dating back to World War II weapons testing.

3. Ensure USACE is operating efficiently. Burdensome project management practices and excessive overhead from USACE leads to delays and under-execution of appropriations.

### **KAFB Bulk Fuels Facility Leak**

I also hope for continued support in addressing a decades-old jet fuel leak at Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) which continues to contaminate surrounding soil and groundwater that are in close proximity to drinking water supply wells. The Bulk Fuels Facility (BFF) jet fuel leak, which was discovered in 1999, has had severe consequences for groundwater quality in the aquifer under the City of Albuquerque—a critical drinking water supply for the city and its surrounding communities. Twenty-six years later, the fuel leak remains in the investigation phase of the clean up process. It continues to threaten water quality in the aquifer and jet fuel which remains at the site of the leak has at times been neglected, leaving the groundwater in the area susceptible to further contamination. The current contamination has rendered a significant area of the aquifer inaccessible for drinking water supplies and persistence of fuel at the site will mean that contamination could will increase, further damaging this once pristine resource. This slow-moving, decades-long investigation is unacceptable and must be addressed.

For FY26 NDAA, I specifically request support in including the following:

1. Request a briefing from the Department of the Air Force within 30 days to this Committee to report on the following:
  - a. a list of remedial actions identified to include, but not limited to, the resumption of soil vapor extraction or similar methodologies;
  - b. a description of ongoing or planned engagement and collaboration with the Albuquerque and Bernalillo County Water Authority and other stakeholders;
  - c. a timeline for remedial actions to be taken by the Air Force over the next five years and a description of any barriers to implementing an effective remediation plan.
2. Language requiring the Department of the Air Force to come into compliance with state and city water quality standards within a timeframe agreed to by DoD, the city, county, and state of New Mexico.