

## ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND LAND USE

### **Proposed Interim Resolution Requesting the Department of Energy (DOE) to Develop an Infrastructure Program for Host and Neighboring Communities**

**Issue:** The operation of Department of Energy (DOE) facilities creates housing, transportation, and related infrastructure and workforce stressors on Counties throughout the Country which affect the ability of the DOE to meet its mission and which have no existing funding resources.

#### **Proposed Policy:**

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) requests the Department of Energy (DOE) to develop an infrastructure investment program. The investments would be made through a grant program or direct funding from the DOE that would provide funding to alleviate the stressors affecting counties and other local government infrastructure that surround DOE facilities. Eligible activities under the program would include transportation, housing, education, emergency response, water, telecommunication and utility projects that benefit the operations and workforce of the DOE facility and the surrounding local government.

**Background:** The Department of Energy (DOE) has facilities in at least 39 states, with 17 laboratories in 14 states, affecting hundreds of counties across the United States. The operations include a wide variety of activities. For most communities that host these facilities, the additional workforce and taxes can be a boon. However, for the host community and surrounding communities, there is often additional stress on infrastructure and workforce. A program for DOE communities would alleviate the additional requirements from the high level of traffic, housing, personnel and other needs of these facilities, thereby furthering national goals.

**Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** For a host community and all neighboring communities, but particularly for rural areas that have few if any other major industry, a DOE Infrastructure Program would have tremendous impact on their ability to provide housing through additional infrastructure, ensure safety and manage the amount of service and maintenance needed as a result of their proximity to DOE facilities.

**Previous Sponsors:** Randall Ryti, Councilor and Danielle Duran, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager, Los Alamos County, New Mexico; Anna Hansen, Commissioner and Justin Greene, Commissioner, Santa Fe County, New Mexico; Ernie Carlson, Commissioner and James Bowen, Commissioner, Eddy County, New Mexico; Jerome Delvin, Commissioner, Benton County, Washington; Megan Labadie, Director, Natural Resources and Federal Facilities, Nye County, Nevada