

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan
Opening Statement
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands
Oversight Hearing, June 28, 2012

Good morning, and thank you to all the witnesses for being here today. I especially want to thank Heather McClenahan from the Los Alamos Historical Society for being here to testify on H.R. 5987 To establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Los Alamos, New Mexico, and Hanford, Washington. Los Alamos National Laboratory, which in my district, has played a substantial role in the nation's history and contributed to our country's national security.

In its beginnings, Los Alamos Laboratory, known as Project Y, was conceived during the early part of World War II. The United States wanted to build an atomic explosive to counter the threat posed by the German nuclear development program. Today Los Alamos National Lab is one of the country's premier laboratories that has contributed greatly to modern physics and has great potential to help build our future in energy, science, and technology.

We also have an opportunity more than 50 years after the creation of the laboratory to ensure that we tell the story of the nuclear age – For both the good and the bad - to reflect on our own history, how it has changed the world, and how we can move forward into the future, ensuring peace and prosperity for humanity.

I yield back