November 27, 2023

Re: FY24 Federal Budget Negotiations--DHS Appropriations

Dear Senator Heinrich,

### We are writing to you on behalf of the Aldo’s Silver City Chapter of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, a women-led national grassroots organization that advocates for preservation and protection of public and wild lands. Our chapter is located within southwestern New Mexico and focuses on resources and issues affecting this region.

H. R. 4367 funding for DHS, passed by the house on 9/28/23, contains provisions in Title II, sections 211(a) and 212, that we unreservedly oppose—they are destructive and a waste of taxpayers’ money. Abundant documentation shows that the existing wall has severely damaged habitats and obstructed the necessary movement of numerous species. This threatens the very existence of our year-round and seasonally indigenous plants and animals—populations already seriously declining from an array of human impacts.

Furthermore, the existing wall is constantly rendered ineffective by sawn removal of segments and is repeatedly damaged by flood waters due to poor siting. The required remediation and chronic maintenance escalate the long-term costs, wasting money much needed for other applications in our national interest.

As the FY24 appropriations process staggers from one crisis to another, the pressure will increase for “horse trading” on provisions of each of the funding bills, including for DHS. Therefore, during the upcoming budget negotiations, we strongly urge you and your fellow Senators to COMPLETELY REJECT the provisions in H.R. 4367, Sec. 211 (a) through (e) as well as Sec. 212.

With gratitude for your efforts,

Starr Belsky,

Aldo’s Silver City Chapter of Great Old Broads for Wilderness - Borderlands Committee

Marcia Stout and Denise Smith,

Co-leaders, Aldo’s Silver City Chapter of Great Old Broads for Wilderness

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