June   , 2025

The Honorable Martin Heinrich

United States Senator

709 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján

United States Senator

498 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Teresa Leger Fernandez

United States Congresswoman

2417 Rayburn House

Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Melanie Stansbury

United States Congresswoman

1421 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC  20515

The Honorable Gabe Vasquez

United States Congressman

322 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

**Dear Honorable Members of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation,**

As concerned New Mexicans and committed advocates for the protection of our cherished public lands, we write to express strong opposition to any legislative or administrative proposals that threaten to privatize or exploit our public lands for short-term corporate gain. At a time when our nation’s natural and cultural heritage faces unprecedented threats, we urge you to take a firm stand against the Trump administration’s and their Congressional allies’ ongoing efforts to dismantle environmental safeguards and strip protections from our public lands, and thank you for all you’ve done so far to stop these profoundly damaging actions.

New Mexicans value our public lands—not just for their economic contributions through sustainable tourism and recreation, but as irreplaceable cultural, environmental, and communal resources. A [recent poll](https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Press-Releases/2025/NWF-Poll-Western-Voters-Oil-and-Gas-Proposals.pdf) conducted by New Bridge Strategy for the National Wildlife Federation shows that New Mexico voters overwhelmingly oppose proposals that allow oil and gas companies to exploit public lands without paying fair market rates, reduce community input, and weaken safeguards for wildlife, recreation, and water resources.

The fossil fuel, timber, and mining industries continue to receive preferential treatment through proposals to reduce royalty rates and the reinstatement of speculative leasing policies. These giveaways come at the expense of taxpayers and the environment, especially as they are paired with rollbacks to vital clean energy incentives such as tax credits for wind, solar, electric vehicles, and domestic clean energy manufacturing.

Alarmingly, these policies also introduce "pay-to-play" permitting systems that allow polluters to buy expedited environmental reviews—reviews that are shielded from judicial oversight. This sets a dangerous precedent, undermining public trust and the integrity of our environmental protections.

The Trump administration’s reckless proposals further aim to privatize national parks and monuments, granting access to billionaires and corporate interests while cutting off the American public. These policies not only endanger our shared public lands, but also threaten wildlife habitats, clean air and water, and the foundational values of conservation that generations of New Mexicans have fought to uphold.

In the Land of Enchantment, we face the real threat of losing protections for iconic landscapes like the Organ Mountains–Desert Peaks or the Rio Grande del Norte National Monuments. These lands are more than geographic features—they are sacred spaces that reflect millennia of cultural and ecological history. Any attempt to strip them of protection is both short-sighted and reprehensible.

We thank you for your tireless efforts and courageous leadership, and call on you to continue:

* Publicly opposing and resisting any attempt to remove protections from public lands and national monuments;
* Rejecting legislation that prioritizes corporate exploitation over environmental stewardship;
* Championing clean energy investments, climate-smart agriculture, and programs that protect public health and community resilience;
* Safeguarding public input and environmental reviews from industry influence and legal obstruction.

We must reject policies that prioritize corporate profits over the public good and instead invest in a clean, just, and sustainable future.

Thank you for your service and your commitment to our shared public lands.

Sincerely,