

New Mexico Federal Lands Council

P.O. Box 189
Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310

June 24, 2012

United States House of Representatives
Committee of Natural Resources
Rep. Rob Bishop, Chairman
Rep. Raul M. Grijalva, Ranking Member
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. 4334 Organ Mountains National Monument Establishment Act

Dear Sirs:

The New Mexico Federal Land Council, representative of a large portion of New Mexico's federal land permittees and multiple use advocates, are writing to confirm our support for H.R. 4334, the Organ Mountains National Monument Establishment Act, proposed and carried by Congressman Steve Pearce. We respectfully ask that this letter be included in the Congressional Record for the upcoming hearing to be held on June 28, 2012, by the Committee of Natural Resources.

The New Mexico Federal Lands Council urges the passage, and signing, of H.R. 4334 in the interest of our national security and protecting our national border with Mexico. This point is critical to our national sovereignty. There are many other issues in contention of the debate that we feel H. R. 4334 addresses in the most optimum manner. By maintaining grazing, while protecting other values that are environmentally sensitive, the monies from limited productive use do their part in funding the national debt. Furthermore, by limiting the amount of acreage to be withdrawn, the continued productive values of other lands, under consideration, will continue do their part toward reducing the debt from fees received from multiple use. We are at a critical juncture at this time in the history of the United States due to debt.

The environmental community has proposed withdrawing 600,000 acres of lands federally administered in Doña Ana County. Much of this acreage already is protected by additional federal regulations above the norm of most federal lands. H. R. 4334 recognizes these protections while also protecting valid existing rights, allows for necessary access for grazers and critical activities such as flood control and watershed maintenance. Other proposals severely limit these issues or completely eliminate them.