

November 24, 2009

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman  
U. S. Senator  
State of New Mexico  
Loretto Town Centre  
505 S. Main Street, Ste. 148  
Las Cruces, NM 88001

The Honorable Tom Udall  
U.S. Senator  
State of New Mexico  
Loretto Town Centre  
505 S. Main Street, Ste. 118  
Las Cruces, NM 88001

The Honorable Harry Teague  
U.S. House of Representatives  
NM Congressional District #2  
125 West Griggs  
Las Cruces, NM 88001

RE: Senate Bill 1689

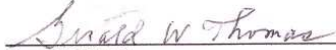
Gentlemen:

As leaders of organizations centrally focused and vitally interested in the well being of Doña Ana County, New Mexico and the Mexican border region, we have concluded in letters to you that Senate Bill 1689 should not be passed by Congress in the scope and the form that it now exists. We respectfully recognize the effort you have made in conceptualizing protective measures for the lands in question. Let it be recognized that this ad hoc body also supports permanent protection measures of the majority of these lands, and we differ only in the case of the Broad Canyon area where the future of Doña Ana County must be considered so carefully, and in the Potrillo Mountains complex, where permanent protection is supported, but national security requires a less restrictive designation for the protection of our county and our nation.

Although our individual duties and responsibilities may differ in various ways, our focus and our allegiance to the position of the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce set forth in a letter to you dated October 20, 2009 represents our united recommendation for the scope of your pending legislation. What must be made clear is that the community is not fully behind the legislation as currently written. We are obligated to seek your support for needed changes in the legislation by our 800-member coalition which includes 24 major organizations; our combined memberships in excess of 1500 businesses; our more than 8500 water constituents; our responsibilities mandated by New Mexico law; our responsibilities for flood and erosion control measures today and in the future; our community's future needs for energy, rail, and water supply corridors; our historical access to the most visited recreational destination in our county; our support for stewardship contracts through Restore New Mexico concepts; our country's need to actively counter the diminishing percentage of domestically produced food and fiber; our combined experience of over 9,000 man years of Border Patrol expertise, and our collective responsibility to keep our county and our country safe from border intrusions.

As set forth in the various letters sent by our collective leadership, we respectfully request that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee schedule a field hearing in Doña Ana County, New Mexico so that all issues can be fairly presented in this matter that is so vital for our county, our border, and our national security.

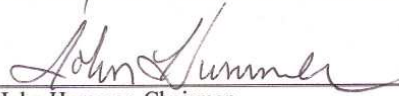
Sincerely,

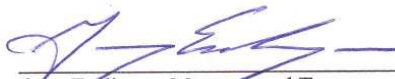
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald W. Thomas  
Ad Hoc Committee Chair  
President Emeritus, New Mexico State University

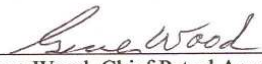
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard C. Johnson  
Ad Hoc Committee, Co-chair, US Forest Service, Retired  
Supervisor of America's first wilderness

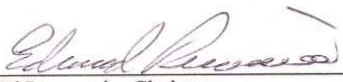
Signatories continue on page two:


  
Andy Nunez, Member  
New Mexico House of Representatives (District 36)

  
John Hummer, Chairman  
Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce

  
Gary Esslinger, Manager and Treasurer  
Elephant Butte Irrigation District

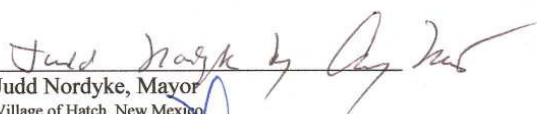
  
Gene Wood, Chief Patrol Agent, Retired  
National Association of Former Border Patrol Officers

  
Ed Provencio, Chairman  
South Vallev Small Farmers Cooperative

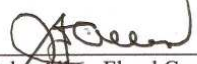
  
Sherry Blake  
Chaparral Agriculture and Livestock Association

  
Jerry Arp, Chairman  
Las Cruces Four Wheel Drive Club


  
Juan Colquitt, President  
Fort Selden Water Company

  
Judd Nurdyke, Mayor  
Village of Hatch, New Mexico

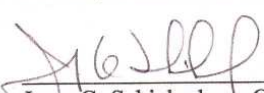
  
John Hadley, Incoming President  
Building Industry Association of Southern New Mexico

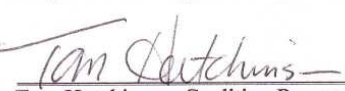
  
John Allen, Flood Commissioner  
Dona Ana County Flood Commission

  
Ralph Ramos, Co-Chairman  
Mesilla Valley Sportsmen's Alliance

  
Joe Delt, Chairman  
Dona Ana Soil and Water Conservation District

  
Marcia Nurdyke, Executive Director  
Hatch Valley Chamber of Commerce

  
Jerry G. Schickedanz, Chairman  
People for Preserving Our Western Heritage

  
Tom Hutchinson, Coalition Representative  
People for Preserving Our Western Heritage