



January 14, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

Dear Mr. President:

Congratulations on another four-year term and I wish you well in your endeavors.

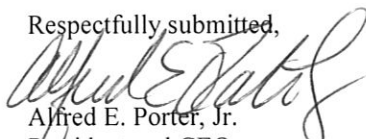
Farm Credit of New Mexico, ACA is New Mexico's largest agricultural lender with loans totaling in excess of \$1.5 billion. We are part of the Farm Credit System and have been lending money to farmers and ranchers since 1916. I personally have been involved in agricultural lending for over 32 years.

Farm Credit of New Mexico, ACA is opposed to the designation of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument by Presidential proclamation for the following reasons:

- Designating such National Monuments restricts the use of our customers to graze these lands which affects their livelihood as a rancher. These designated properties are "checker-boarded" within a rancher's deeded-private land which makes management for monument purposes very difficult and costly to the government.
- Removing the grazing rights to the ranchers will reduce the stocking rate of these ranches. This clearly will impact the value of these properties for not only our collateral lending purposes, but to the owners and lessees of the ranches. The impact of values will likely materially affect our lending standards for ranch properties located within the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument territory.
- These properties have been passed down from generation to generation. So should this Executive Order go through it tells our young, beginning and minority operators they cannot fulfill their lifelong dream of living off the land that their ancestors established.
- The taxes these ranchers pay to local counties to run cattle will be reduced as their carrying capacity and cattle numbers will be cut back. This in turn could affect beef inventories that have already been reduced substantially due to the drought situation that much of New Mexico is dealing with today.
- The ranchers of New Mexico take great pride in preserving the great beauty of these lands today and it would be a shame to take away the knowledge and skillset they have of managing these properties.

For the above-mentioned reasons, we respectfully request that you not exercise your executive authority to designate the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument and instead let the local stakeholders pursue other administrative remedies in order to protect and preserve these lands.

Respectfully submitted,



Alfred E. Porter, Jr.
President and CEO
Farm Credit of New Mexico

cc: Secretary Ken Salazar, Senator Tom Udall, Senator Martin Heinrich, Congressman Steve Pearce, Congressman Ben Ray Lujan, Governor Susana Martinez