



August 1, 2011

Senator Ron Wyden, Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: OPPOSITION TO S. 1024

Dear Chairman Wyden:

The Greater Las Cruces, NM Chamber of Commerce, representing approximately 1,000 businesses, has strongly opposed Senator Bingaman's efforts to designate our community's lands as "Wilderness" in the former S. 1689 and now its current reincarnation of S. 1024. Please note the following when considering S. 1024:

- There is "not" a consensus of support within our community for this legislation.
- Our current Governor has expressed concerns regarding Wilderness designations in Dona Ana County.
- Our Congressman, Steve Pearce, who represents the very district affected by this legislation, has expressed strong opposition to Senator Bingaman's legislation.
- There is a deep concern within our community on S. 1024's negative impact to our local, state and national security due to its wilderness designation of lands near the U.S. / Mexican border.
- There is deep concern regarding S. 1024's negative impact on flood control within our valley.

Until Senator Bingaman can answer our concerns regarding these important issues, we stand in strong in opposition to S. 1024. **Please ensure that this letter be made part of the official record when evaluating and debating S. 1024.**

Thank you.

John L. Hummer
Division Chair – Government Affairs