



Dona Ana Soil and Water Conservation District

2507 North Telshor Boulevard, Ste. 1 - Las Cruces, New Mexico 88011 - Phone (575) 522-8775, Ext. 116

August 2, 2011

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3102

RE: S.1024

Dear Senator Bingaman,

I am appealing to you today as Chairman of the Dona Ana Soil and Water Conservation District (District) with grave concerns about S.1024.

As an elected Supervisor and Chair, I have an obligation to my Board of Supervisors and my constituents to address issues that relate to the preservation and protection of the natural resources of this District in general and the Lower Rio Grande Watershed in particular.

Senator, close to 85% of Dona Ana County and this District is federal land under the management of the Bureau of Land Management. The Lower Rio Grande Watershed includes all lands that drain into the Rio Grande from Caballo Dam to the Texas state line near El Paso, TX, the majority of which are federal lands.

My concern is about access.

Your Senate Bill 1024 will eliminate the District's access to key areas of this watershed to perform any watershed restoration projects aimed at improving watershed health and/or providing for effective stormwater management to preserve our natural resources and provide for the safety and welfare of our public and property.

Please, how can you believe this to be good for Dona Ana County?

Senator Bingaman, please consider the long term ramifications of eliminating the ability of this community to effectively manage these key watersheds by restricting access to them and pull S.1024.

Respectfully,

(s) Joe Delk, Chair
DASWCD Board of Supervisors