

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

County of Luna

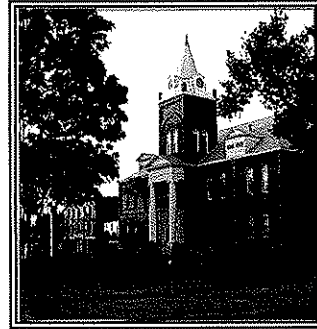
Luna County Administration

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August 29, 2011

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

Dear Senator Bingaman:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Luna County Board of County Commissioners expressing opposition to S. 1024 which would designate over 240,000 acres of public lands as wilderness area in Southern New Mexico. Approval of this legislation would heighten concerns of public safety to Luna and surrounding counties. This action would prevent Border Patrol, Sheriff Departments, and other law enforcement agencies from accessing the land which would increase the border security threat. Approving this legislation would also impact our efforts to promote natural resource energy such as solar and wind in Southern New Mexico.

I encourage you to consider the long term effect to the citizens of surrounding communities.

Respectfully,

R. Javier Diaz
Chairman