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The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senate SH 703
Washington DC
20510

Dear Senator Bingaman,

As former chairman of the Dona Ana County Commission, and current political candidate, I am compelled to express my deep concern about the scope and potential ramifications of S. 1689.

The groups in favor of this bill constantly tout the protection of the Organ Mountains as, I think, a way to draw attention away from what they are really doing. And that is closing down hundreds of thousands of acres in Dona Ana County under oppressive wilderness designations. Most of these areas don't come close to complying with federal wilderness standards and the economic hardship that will be caused to Dona Ana County will be truly devastating.

As has been pointed out numerous times, there are other less obtrusive ways to protect these areas and the ranch families who now take care of them.

More than 800 respected businesses and organizations in this county do not support this massive federal land grab. It is hardly ever mentioned but the Organ Mountains are already under strict federal protections as wilderness study areas. Therefore we have to wonder why these political groups—who have nothing to lose—are pushing this so hard? It is obvious their agenda is anti-business and anti-family and I urge you to reconsider this pivotal legislation for the good of the majority of your constituents.

Sincerely,

D. Kent Evans
Candidate for N.M. Public Regulation Commission Dist. 5