



ES-CA (Eastern Sandoval Citizens Association, Inc.)

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Dear Senator Heinrich:

The Eastern Sandoval Citizens Association (ES-CA) represent the people of Sandoval County east of I-25. We are in support of your legislation, the Buffalo Tract Protection Act, which will ensure that communities in southern Sandoval County are protected from gravel mining on nearby lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The draft Rio Puerco Resource Management Plan, published in July 2012, opened the Buffalo Tract and other nearby public lands to gravel mining. Our area already has six gravel mines with four of them being among New Mexico's thirteen largest. The cumulative negative economic and quality of life impacts, as well as health risks, of these mines on our area cannot be overstated.

Sandoval County passed Resolution 8-6-15.7 on August 6, 2015 "the Board does not support any new sand and gravel mining on the BLM Land Known as the Buffalo Tract...". An August 2014 blind survey of our membership found that 91% Agreed or Strongly Agreed "Never allow any type of mining or extraction (except water) on the property (Buffalo Tract)". According to Plate 58 published in the 2012 draft RMP, there is a 60 mile aggregate rich (Rio Grande) corridor with an abundance of areas better suited for gravel mining.

Your legislation would withdraw the Buffalo Tract and other public lands in the vicinity from any mineral sale, lease, or patent. This will protect Placitas from additional and unwanted gravel mining. We hope to see this legislation advance quickly. Thank you for your work on behalf of Placitas and Sandoval County.

Sincerely,

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