

Hon. Martin Heinrich  
United States Senate  
303 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

9 July 2016

Dear Senator Heinrich:

I write in support of your legislation, the Buffalo Tract Protection Act, which will ensure that communities in eastern 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. I am concerned that a mine in this area would bring:

1. Major health issues with addition dust of silicate in the air for us to breath.
2. We in the Placitas area already has 4 of the 13 large gravel mining in all of New Mexico.
3. Some of our subdivision borders the Buffalo Track.
4. Our property values are depressed by 20 % due to the proximity of current mines.
5. The current closest mine uses 3 time the amount of water as would a residential area of the same size of the mine.

Your legislation would withdraw the Buffalo Tract and other public lands in the vicinity from any mineral sale, lease, or patent. This will protect The La Mesa Subdivision from unwanted impact from mining. I hope to see this legislation advance quickly, and thank you for your work on behalf of The La Mesa Subdivision, Placitas. (Where you had one of your first house parties so long ago)

Sincerely,



George Franzen

President of La Mesa Homeowners Association  
Representing 154 property owners