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Office of the Governor

July 13, 2016

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

Dear Senator Heinrich:

I write 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. I am concerned that a mine in this area would be of risk due to health related issues within the community of Placitas and as well as surrounding area.

Your legislation would withdraw the Buffalo Tract and other public lands in the vicinity from any mineral sale, lease, or patent. This will protect Pueblo of San Felipe from unwanted impact from mining. I hope to see this legislation advance quickly, and thank you for your work on behalf of Pueblo of San Felipe.

Sincerely,

PUEBLO OF SAN FELIPE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael T. Sandoval".

Michael T. Sandoval, Governor