



Town of Bernalillo

"The City of Coronado"

Mayor
Jack Torres

Council
Marian A. Jaramillo
Dale R. Prairie
Ronnie A. Sisneros
Tina Dominguez

July 11, 2016

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 create additional traffic safety issues, increase environmental pollutants, and destroy the natural beauty and habitat in an area already irreparably damaged by out of control 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 Bernalillo, Algodones, Placitas, Santa Anna Pueblo, San Felipe Pueblo, Sandia Pueblo and other residents of unincorporated Sandoval County from unnecessary, harmful impacts from mining. I hope to see this legislation advance quickly, and thank you for your work on behalf of The Town of Bernalillo.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jack Torres