

Ranchos de Placitas
Property Owners Association
PO Box 1158
Placitas, NM 87043

July 12, 2016

Dear Senator Heinrich:

The Ranchos de Placitas Property Owners Association (Rdppoa) represents the lot owners and residents of North Ranchos de Placitas Units 4, 5, 6, and 7 and adjacent properties, in total more than 230 separate properties. We are in support of your legislation, the Buffalo Tract Protection Act, which will ensure that communities in Placitas and surrounding 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. The Placitas 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 the 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...". The Rdppoa Board has voted unanimously in opposition to opening up the Buffalo Tract to new sand and gravel mining. 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,

The Board of Directors of Ranchos de Placitas Property Owners Association

Janice Saxton, President Vicki Gottlieb, Vice-President James Gay, 2nd Vice-President
Bill Kroenke, Secretary Kristine Harriger, Treasurer