

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
County of Luna

Joe "Oleo" Milo, Jr.
Commissioner, District 1

J. Jay Spivey, Chairman
Commissioner, District 2



R. Javier Diaz
Commissioner, District 3

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February 13, 2013

Department of the Interior
Ken Salazar, Secretary
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Re: SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

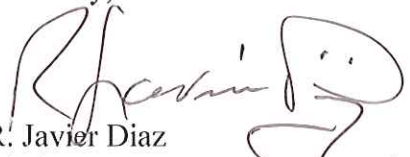
Dear Secretary Salazar:


The Citizens of Luna County wish to express their continued support for the SunZia Transmission Project. Our community supports electrical transmission infrastructure projects to enhance the statewide electrical transmission grid, and attract the construction and operation of renewable and conventional generation facilities. The SunZia Transmission Project will provide needed infrastructure, which is the key to many future economic development initiatives for our region and the state of New Mexico.

Your Department's diligence and attention of the Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") process of the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project is commendable. However, it has now come to our attention that the project could be delayed or abandoned completely because of eleventh hour comments from the military. It appears that the investors in the project are tiring of the military's ever changing comments of acceptance to objection with no assurance of a final position. In May 2011 the Department of Defense Energy Siting Clearing House, proposed an alignment for the SunZia Project that was deemed compatible with military missions in New Mexico. The BLM ultimately chose the Clearing House's route as the preferred alternative in the Draft EIS. While we understand the importance of the military and its missions, there are also needs for electrical transmission infrastructure in New Mexico that also have national security implications.

Projects like SunZia can be the catalyst to create economic growth in high unemployment areas of New Mexico. We request that your department please release the Final EIS without any further delay and or study. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


R. Javier Diaz
Chairman, Luna County Commission


Andres Z. Silva
Mayor, City of Deming