



The Buffalo Tract Protection Act - Letters of Support

Governor Anthony Ortiz, The Pueblo of San Felipe

"The Pueblo of San Felipe has advocated and worked for many years to reclaim, preserve and protect the area known current day as the Buffalo Tract from mineral development and extractive mining. This area is an important part of our ancestral lands and contains cultural sites, including NAGPRA sites, and houses wildlife migration paths between the Sandia and Jemez Mountains. Protection of the Buffalo Tract will allow our youth and future generations to know our ancestral lands as we have and will ensure wildlife will remain undisturbed. The Pueblo of San Felipe is thankful for the work of Congresswoman Stansbury and the New Mexico Delegation who continue to work in partnership with Tribal Leaders to protect lands sacred to the first peoples of our State."

Ulysses G Leon , Governor, Pueblo of Santa Ana

"The lands now known as the Buffalo Tract are part of the ancestral lands of the Pueblo of Santa Ana and form part of the link between our modern villages along the Rio Grande with our historic village of Paak'u. These lands, and the sites on these lands, are sacred to the Pueblo of Santa Ana. Currently, several mines are operating in this area – any new mining would only exacerbate the negative impacts that mining has on this area as well as further limit the movement of wildlife along this important corridor. Because of these impacts on our environment and wildlife corridors, Santa Ana has ceased mining activities on its lands and we support the effort to protect the Buffalo Tract from any new mining."

Katherine A. Bruch, Sandoval County Commissioner, District 1

"I am proud to support Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury's introduction of the Buffalo Tract Protection Act. For over forty years, the residents of my district have endured the air pollution, the noise, and the truck traffic generated by the constant sand and gravel mining occurring in this area. The BLM land to be protected from mineral mining borders Placitas, Algodones, Sand Felipe Pueblo, and Santa Ana Pueblo. This is a rural and residential area and use of the BLM land should be consistent with this type of setting. I look forward to working with the Congresswoman to make this legislation become law."

Jack Torres, Mayor, Town of Bernalillo

"The Town of Bernalillo in Sandoval County is in support of the Buffalo Tract 4,288. The Town of Bernalillo supports the protection of wildlife in the Buffalo Tract Corridor and surrounding habitat. The Town of Bernalillo supports keeping the Buffalo Tract 4,288 acres withdrawn from all forms of mineral development and supports the four plots to remain as one. The Town of Bernalillo is in support of the Bureau of Land Management to maintain the authority to sell, lease or exchange the surface right to the parcels, and ensures that if rights are sold, lease, or exchanged, the mineral right will remain withdrawn from development of the Buffalo Tract of 4,288 acres. The Town of Bernalillo is in full support of the Buffalo Tract Protection Act brought introduced by New Mexico Representative Stansbury on November 1, 2021."

Rebecca Correa-Skartwed, President of the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant

"The Merced de Comunidad De San Antonio De Las Huertas Land Grant (SADLHLG) supports Senate Bill 180 to withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management from mineral development. The community of the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant is deeply concerned about the amount of water that is being consumed by extensive mining in Placitas, NM, where our land grant is located. As mining has become more evident on the hills West of Placitas, so has the decreased amount of water in the aquifers. More than any time in the history of Placitas, water wells have gone dry in the community reflecting the decreased amount of water in the aquifers. Though mining isn't the only issue causing a decrease in the aquifers, it does directly affect the amount of water that is left in the aquifers. The (SADLHLG) has been stewards of the land and water in Placitas for over 250 years, and as a community we continue to strive to protect the resources our forefathers fought to preserve for future generations. The vision of protecting our resources for generations to come continues full force. It is our hope that as we protect the community from mining, it will preserve our water resources in the future and for that reason, we the Board of Trustees of the SADLHLG fully support Congresswoman Stansbury's effort by supporting S. Bill 180."

George Franzen, President of the Eastern Sandoval County Citizens Association (ES-CA) and Director of the affiliated Land Use Protection Trust (LPT) & Sandy Johnson, President of the Las Placitas Association (LPA)

"The longstanding team of LPA and ES-CA, representing half of Sandoval County, applauds Rep. Stansbury's introduction of The Buffalo Tract Protection Act, whose passage will protect not only the public health, air and water resources, wildlife, cultural heritage and recreation opportunities of Placitas/Sandoval County but the local and state economies as well. We pledge continuing support for adoption of this legislation which is vitally important to our culturally diverse, high-desert residential community in the greater metropolitan Albuquerque area."

Mark Allison, Executive Director, New Mexico Wild

"The Buffalo Tract Protection Act protects a vulnerable landscape from the increasingly aggressive activities of the extractive industries. Our nation's mining laws haven't been updated since the Grant administration, so it's refreshing to see Representatives Leger Fernandez and Stansbury use their offices to address unchecked development here in New Mexico. It's time to withdraw more of our federal public lands from leasing."