

## United States Senate

October 25, 2012

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

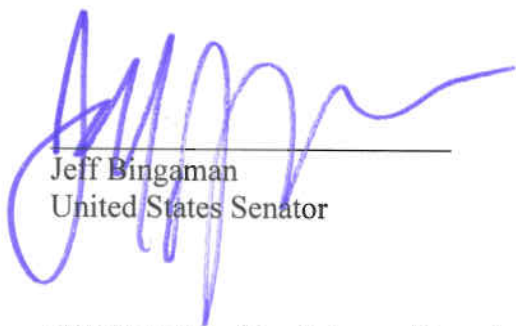
As cosponsors of S. 667, the Rio Grande del Norte National Conservation Area Establishment Act and S. 1024, the Organ Mountains--Doña Ana County Conservation and Protection Act, we write to voice our support for you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to designate these areas as National Monuments.

New Mexicans on every level, from grassroots campaigns to Mayors and County Commissioners, have expressed their support for the protection of these special places. Community leaders, business owners, student groups, and conservation advocates from across New Mexico have traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with your staff and representatives at the Department of Interior to lend their support for the protection of the Rio Grande del Norte in Taos County and the Organ, Potrillos, Robledo Mountains and related areas in Doña Ana County. Still, there is much work to be done to ensure these areas are protected this year.

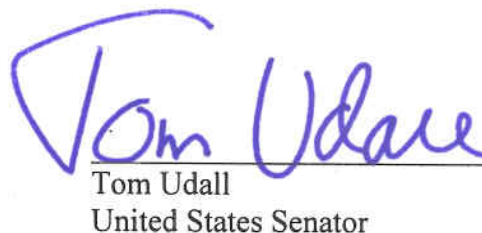
We will continue to work to advance legislation in the Senate to conserve these important areas in New Mexico, but in the absence of any certainty about the passage of legislation, we believe you should work with local communities to explore how a National Monument designation would protect the archeological and cultural resources in these two regions. Since the legislation has been carefully crafted to secure broad support, we request that you carefully consider these proposals.

Thank you for your continued commitment to preserving our valuable places in New Mexico for future generations.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bingaman  
United States Senator



Tom Udall  
United States Senator

CC: Secretary Ken Salazar, Department of Interior  
Chair Nancy Sutley, Council on Environmental Quality  
Acting Director Mike Pool, Bureau of Land Management