

Board of County Commissioners

Rock G. Ulibarri
Chairman-District 1

Arthur J. Padilla
Vice-Chair-District 3

Janice C. Varela
Commissioner-District 2

Maria L. Martinez
Commissioner-District 4

Chris A. Najjar
Commissioner-District 5

Vidal Martinez, Ed.D.
County Manager

May 10, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

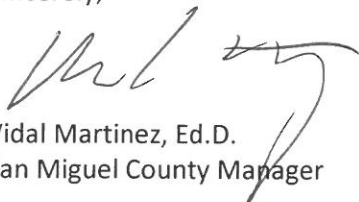
Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write in strong support of the Sabinoso Public Access Plan. San Miguel County is home to the Sabinoso Wilderness, and public access to the area will make it a significant amenity for our constituents. Most San Miguel County residents have never been able to visit the Sabinoso, despite its location in our backyard, because there is no way for the public to access the public lands that make up the wilderness area. Gaining access to these lands, which belong to all Americans, will be a great victory for this community.

In addition, opening up the Sabinoso Wilderness will be a significant economic opportunity for the City of Las Vegas, our county seat. Access to the Sabinoso is expected to draw significant new visitors to the area, and Las Vegas is well positioned to take advantage of the opportunity to serve those visitors. Las Vegas is the last opportunity to buy supplies before reaching the wilderness and we welcome these visitors to our local stores and gas stations.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal, and we look forward to welcoming you to San Miguel County and the Sabinoso Wilderness soon.

Sincerely,



Vidal Martinez, Ed.D.
San Miguel County Manager