From: Micah Chambers
To: randal_bowman@ios.doi.gov; Downey Magallanes
Subject: Fwd: Organ Mtns National Monument
Date: Thursday, May 25, 2017 3:32:13 PM
Attachments: attachedFile.html
image001.png
image002.png
attachedFile.html
image003.png
attachedFile.html
image004.jpg
attachedFile.html
Ltr to Zinke - 5-25-17.pdf
attachedFile.html

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "MacGregor, Robert" <Robert.MacGregor@mail.house.gov>
Date: May 25, 2017 at 4:28:23 PM EDT
To: "'Chambers, Micah'" <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Kaster, Amanda" <amanda_kaster@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: Organ Mtns National Monument

Sent out today, thanks for your help!
?
From: Chambers, Micah [mailto:micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 5:54 PM
To: MacGregor, Robert
Cc: Kaster, Amanda
Subject: Re: Organ Mtns National Monument
?
Rob. Thanks again for this. Just to clarify, you all plan on sending a formal letter on your letter head based on the request right? If you sent already, just yell at me and then send it again :)?
?
On Tue, Apr 25, 2017 at 7:59 PM, MacGregor, Robert <Robert.MacGregor@mail.house.gov> wrote:
Hey guys, sorry to bother you guys again, but my boss wanted to make sure I sent this over to you all. We really want to make sure that the Organ Mountains monument gets reviewed and would be happy to help during any point of the review process by providing info. We have a number of letters of support and a number of folks on the ground who would be happy to explain the issues to anyone over there. I believe my boss may bring this up to the Secretary when he is on the Hill Thursday and I wanted to make sure I told you both first.
?
Please let me know how I can help.
?
Thanks,
?

Rob MacGregor
Legislative Director
Congressman Steve Pearce (NM-02)
2432 Rayburn House Office Building
202-225-2365

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
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STEVAN PEARCE
Second District, New Mexico

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding the review of the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks (OMDP) National Monument in New Mexico. As you know, I have been very engaged on this issue and welcome this review as I believe the current footprint of the monument is excessive. I believe that the Organ Mountains should absolutely be protected. However, the current monument designation goes well beyond the actual Organ Mountains and should be reduced. I would also like to make it clear that I do not advocate for the change in federal ownership of any of this land.

In the 113th Congress I introduced H.R. 995, the Organ Mountains National Monument Establishment Act. The bill created a 54,800 acre national monument and included necessary protections for grazing, hunting, water rights, and other multiple uses. In May of 2014, President Obama designated the current footprint, which includes the Organ Mountains, the Robledo Mountains, the Uvas Mountains, the Dona Ana Mountains, and the Potrillo Mountains. This footprint includes 496,330 acres of public land and encompasses an additional 77,207 acres of State and private lands.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 grants to the President of the United States the authority to declare by proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the government of the United States to be national monuments. The Act stipulates that the designation "shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected." Needless to say, the current footprint does not align with the intent of the law and has created a number of issues.

The first issue that the current footprint of the OMDP monument creates has to do with border security and the safety of my constituents living near the border. The Potrillo Mountains to the southwest of the Organ Mountains could very easily become a drug and human smuggling corridor given its close proximity to the border and the restrictive language in the monument designation. The former Dona Ana County sheriff as well as the National Association of Former

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ROSWELL, NM 88201
200 E BROADWAY, STE 200
HOBBS, NM 88240
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ALAMOGORDO, NM 88310
3445 LAMBROS LOOP NE
LOS LUNAS, NM 87031
111 SCHOOL OF MINES RD
SOCORRO, NM 87801

DOI-2018-07 01580

Border Patrol Officers raised this concern with the last Administration, but their concerns were ignored. Releasing this section of the monument would increase border security and improve the safety of my constituents. Additionally, the land would still remain under the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) control and would enjoy significant protection as a lot of the land was previously managed as wilderness.

The expansive footprint of the OMDP monument will also have a devastating impact on local ranchers who have been responsibly running cattle in this area for generations. The OMDP monument designation will prevent farmers and ranchers from accessing certain parts of their allotments to do maintenance work. The western reaches of the current footprint envelop a number of ranches, which may eventually limit the number of cattle those ranches can run. This could make certain ranches uneconomical, crushing a ranching industry that is part of the identity of this area.

There are also economic concerns that the OMDP footprint creates. The monument may prevent the "Ghost City" project west of Las Cruces that is projected to provide hundreds of jobs for the local area. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad is considering a new rail crossing, but needs a new rail line in the area. The current footprint would prevent this new line as the designation does not allow for new rights of way. This project would create hundreds of jobs and increased economic activity in the area.

The western portion of the monument also has energy and natural resource potential. The west mesa is an ideal location for future solar energy development and the northwestern boundary of the monument contains one of the most significant geothermal reserves in the nation. There is also a significant supply of brackish water under the western area of the monument that may be locked away forever due to the current footprint and designation. This water may be needed if the state of New Mexico wishes to grow in the future.

There are a lot of voices claiming that the monument itself will bring tourism jobs and money. While there is no credible data on this, I believe that rescinding the monument to the actual Organ Mountains will preserve whatever tourism is created while also allowing for other economic growth in the area. I truly believe this will create a situation where everyone wins.

I would like to invite you to visit the current monument so that I can show you the devastating impacts of this footprint on the ground.

Sincerely,

Steve Pearce
Member of Congress