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August 29, 2012

Honorable Kenneth L. Salazar  
Secretary of the Interior  
c/o Tony Herrell, Dep. State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
New Mexico State Office  
301 Dinosaur Trail  
Santa Fe, NM 87508

RE: Draft Secretary of the Interior Order on "Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico" noticed in the Federal Register Vol. 77, No. 135, pgs. 41442-41444 July 13, 2012

Dear Mr. Secretary:

From the beginning of the potash business in New Mexico, my family has had held economic interest in BOTH POTASH MINING AND OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION. Safe, concurrent development of both potash and oil & gas is currently possible and is taking place. Even more concurrent development is safe and possible due to advances in technology and production methods in both Oil & Gas Exploration and Potash Mining.

Both industries have recognized this reality and have demonstrated ongoing cooperation through the JITC (Joint Industry Task Force). The great benefits of joint industry cooperation and the possibility of even more seamless concurrent development of natural resources are currently being realized by the Potash Companies, Oil and Gas companies, local workers, the State of New Mexico and the USA.

Your proposed Draft Secretarial Order and changes to Policy Statements completely disregard the recommendations of the JITC, fly in the face of FLPMA and MPA, are without scientific merit, attempt to circumvent decades of established case law, will destroy joint industry cooperation, will reignite the former adversarial litigious relationship between the two industries, reduce the possibility of increased future revenues to County, State and Federal coffers and insure the wasting of the USA's natural resources.

When two industries work together in cooperation to jointly recommend ways to safely develop natural resources to the benefit of all, it should be supported. Mr. Secretary, somehow the Proposed Secretarial Order and changes to Policy Statements have emerged as ill timed, regressive, divisive and counterproductive documents which are both legally and scientifically flawed. I hope that after personal consideration, you choose to scrap them entirely.

Respectfully Submitted,



Olen F. Featherstone III