



Council of Border Conservation Districts

c/o Deming SWCD, 405 E. Florida, Deming, NM 88030 (575) 546-9692

September 20, 2019

Senator Tom Udall
c/o Melanie Goodman
melanie_goodman@tomudall.senate.gov

Senator Martin Heinrich
c/o Dara Parker
Dara_Parker@heinrich.senate.gov

Dear Senators:

The Council of Border Conservation Districts (CBCD) has been informed that your office is in receipt of a proposal for Wild & Scenic Rivers (WSR) designation within our member conservation district boundaries. Our CBCD Board is very concerned about this proposal's potential significant impacts on our legal responsibilities by non-government entities.

The CBCD supports the resolutions that oppose the WSR designations by our member Soil and Water Conservation Districts, to include Caballo SWCD, Deming SWCD, Grant SWCD, Hidalgo SWCD, San Francisco SWCD, and Sierra SWCD.

The CBCD is concerned about the possibility that WSR designation could unduly restrict conservation district's abilities to effectively carry out our legal responsibilities for the conservation and use of soil and water and agricultural advancement.

Furthermore, CBCD respectfully petitions that our congressional delegation uphold New Mexico Soil & Water Conservation District's statutory responsibilities. The CBCD also requests that our congressional delegates honor and support the attached NM House Memorial to protect the unique customs and cultures and supporting agriculture, as it pertains to our life supporting waterways.

The proposed WSR legislation that calls for the designation of a large part of our waterways as wild and scenic, without visiting the district, discussing the topic or learning of unintended consequences is unthinkable. CBCD expects our NM congressional delegation to spend time within our conservation district boundaries; the places most affected by their actions. These

potential designations should require significant input from the New Mexico citizens most affected. We welcome honest dialogue with our board.

Therefore, the CBCD Board requests our Congressional delegation to schedule a meeting with the Border Council's six conservation districts to discuss Southwest NM conservation district concerns and to provide demonstrable alternative initiatives for improving these precious and dependable river ecosystems. The CBCD can set up a meeting for your visit to include all potentially affected conservation districts and acequias.

We look forward to working with you on setting up a meeting. Please contact our Project Coordinator, Katherine Turner, to make arrangements for your visit. Katherine's email is demingswcd@yahoo.com.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Wood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" being more prominent than the last name "Wood".

Jim Wood
CBCD Chairman

Attachment: New Mexico Memorial to Protect New Mexico's Agriculture and Customs and Cultures

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

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HOUSE MEMORIAL 71

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Debbie A. Rodella

A MEMORIAL

ENCOURAGING FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES TO DETERMINE AND
DOCUMENT THEIR EFFECTS ON AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND
ENTERPRISES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a unique fabric of customs and
cultures resulting from centuries of tenancy by a variety of
ethnic groups and backgrounds with their identity grounded in
natural resources; and

WHEREAS, agriculture and the procurement of natural
resources have been a primary pursuit and the unifying theme
among all customs and cultures of New Mexico for centuries, and
they provide a stable base for local economies and community
stability; and

WHEREAS, nontraditional demands are often to the detriment
of local customs, cultures and communities relying on natural

resource products for personal and economic well-being;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that agriculture and other natural resource procurement occupations be respected as essential to maintaining the unique and rich traditional western heritage and customs and cultures important to New Mexicans, their ancestors and their descendants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal, state and local agencies be encouraged to determine and document the effects of their activities, laws, regulations and policies in coordination, cooperation and consultation with county governments, affected communities and individuals to consider the impacts these actions have on New Mexico's rural communities, economies, traditions and customs and cultures.