

HIDALGO COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION No

IN SUPPORT OF HERITAGE WATERS COALITION'S OPPOSITION
TO S.3670, THE M.H. DUTCH SALMON GREATER GILA WILD AND
SCENIC RIVER ACT

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Hidalgo County, met in a regular meeting on June 9, 2021, at 5:00 P.M. in the Hidalgo County Administration Office, 305 Pyramid Street, Lordsburg NM 88045; and,

WHEREAS, NMSA 1978, Section 4-37-1 (1995) provides that Counties have the power to, "provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity and improve the morals, order, comfort and convenience of any county or its inhabitants"; and,

WHEREAS, the Heritage Waters Coalition is comprised of hundreds of citizens, businesses, and elected officials from Southwestern New Mexico that have come together to protect the heritage, history, and landscape of the Gila River, its water and its lands; and,

WHEREAS, the mission of the Heritage Waters Coalition is to educate our community to understand the risks they face in losing their traditional lifestyles and family heritage by depopulating our communities through political actions to allow Washington, D.C. to control our water, our land, and our liberties; and,

WHEREAS, the Heritage Waters Coalition has opposed S.3670, the M.H. Dutch Salmon Greater Gila Wild & Scenic River Act, which ignores the voices of New Mexico's citizens who have lived, worked, and cared for the rivers and lands of America's oldest Wilderness Area; and,

WHEREAS, the M.H. Dutch Salmon Greater Gila Wild & Scenic River Act is overreach of the worst sort by Washington, D.C.; and,

WHEREAS, the Gila and its tributaries are already protected, as they flow through the world's first Wilderness Area of over 559,000 acres where no dams, no motorized vehicles, no roads, no development, or diversion of these rivers can occur; and,

WHEREAS, the families of southwest New Mexico have embraced this Wilderness and helped protect it through responsible management of the lands they work; and,

WHEREAS, Wild and Scenic designations provide no additional protections for the Gila but only serve as weapons to drive New Mexicans off these lands, losing our heritage, our history and our culture.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Hidalgo County expresses its deep support and appreciation to the Heritage Water Coalition's for its commitment to educate our community, and for its vigorous opposition to S.3670, the M.H. Dutch Salmon Greater Gila Wild & Scenic River Act.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND RESOLVED this 9th day of June, 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HIDALGO COUNTY

Johnny Hatch, Chairman, Joel Edwards, Commissioner, Art Malott, Commissioner