



State of New Mexico

Susana Martinez
Governor

April 22, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

I am writing to you concerning the planned SunZia Southwest Transmission Project, which has been under review by the Department of the Interior and the Department of Defense for the last few years. The project is one of seven pilot project transmission lines which were described in your multi-agency announcement, ***Obama Administration Announces Job-Creating Grid Modernization Pilot Projects***, October 5, 2011.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has completed a Final Environmental Impact Statement on the project (June, 2013). We are aware that there have been intense discussions between the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) regarding the impact of the transmission line on critical test and evaluation missions which are supported by White Sands Missile Range (WSMR). The BLM preferred route for the project is currently planned to transit the "Northern Extension Area" of WSMR which is frequently used to support such high-priority test missions as those required to develop the Joint Air and Missile Defense Architecture. Recently, the

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Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory was asked by DOD to address the impact of the BLM preferred route on WSMR's mission. I am seriously concerned that the planned route for the project poses an unacceptable national security risk.

The State of New Mexico fully supports our national goals regarding renewable energy—our State has tremendous resources, particularly wind and solar energy. However, the development of renewable energy projects should not negatively impact military missions at any of our installations.

Regarding the DOD/Army participation in the review of the SunZia project, we have also been made aware of their recommended alternative route which avoids the Northern Extension Area of WSMR. Another alternative is to bury approximately 35 miles of the transmission line in the Northern Extension Area as a means of minimizing the impact on test and evaluation missions.

I urgently request your support in directing the DOI to develop a plan for the SunZia Project which avoids negatively impacting the mission performance of WSMR.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and please let me know if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susana Martinez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "M".

Susana Martinez
Governor