

**Justin S. Greene**  
*Commissioner, District 1*

**Lisa Cacari Stone**  
*Commissioner, District 2*

**Camilla Bustamante**  
*Commissioner, District 3*



**Adam Fulton Johnson**  
*Commissioner, District 4*

**Hank Hughes**  
*Commissioner, District 5*

**Gregory S. Shaffer**  
*County Manager*

June 10, 2025

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator  
303 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Ben Ray Luján  
United States Senator  
498 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Teresa Leger Fernández  
United States Congresswoman  
1432 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Melanie Stansbury  
United States Congresswoman  
1421 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gabe Vasquez  
United States Congressman  
1517 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 2051

**RE: Support for Pecos Watershed Protection Act**

Dear Senator Heinrich, Senator Lujan, Congresswoman Leger Fernandez, Congresswoman Stansbury and Congressman Vasquez:

The Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners writes to thank you for reintroducing the Pecos Watershed Protection Act to the Senate (S.1319) and the House of Representatives (H.R.2727). We wish to express our strong support for this important legislation. The bills' proposed permanent withdrawal of federal managed minerals within the upper Pecos River watershed, along with the formal designation of this area as wilderness, is critical to protecting one of New Mexico's most treasured and ecologically significant regions.

The upper Pecos watershed, located in Santa Fe County, encompasses National Forest land and includes the eastern edge of the Town of Glorieta. Glorieta Creek, fed by the Pecos River, provides essential water for the community – supporting residential needs and sustaining agricultural practices that are a vital part of the region's heritage and economy.

Renewing mining efforts in and around this sensitive watershed poses an unacceptable risk. In 1991, toxic runoff from abandoned mines – including sulfuric acid and heavy metals – entered

the Pecos River, causing widespread environmental damage and threatening water supplies. The cleanup has cost New Mexico taxpayers more than \$8 million and is still not complete. We must not allow history to repeat itself.

The Pecos Watershed Protection Act would provide the permanent safeguards this landscape and its communities deserve. We are grateful for your leadership and commitment to protecting one of New Mexico's most precious natural resources. The Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners stands ready to work with you to ensure S.1319 and H.R.2727 are enacted into law during the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

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Camilla Bustamante, PhD, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners