

August 18, 2015

Dear Senators Udall, Heinrich, and Congressman Lujan,

Despite the lack of environmental review for fracking in the area, a federal court on Friday ruled that the Bureau of Land Management is allowed to continue granting hundreds or even thousands of new permits to drill and frack in the Greater Chaco area.

The Greater Chaco region is home to many Navajo communities living amid extensive oil and gas development that threatens their way of life. The area is also home to Chaco Culture National Historical Park, extensive ancestral Puebloan ruins and is considered a cultural heart of the American Southwest. Over the last two years, BLM has approved more than 260 new fracking proposals, primarily near the community of Lybrook and within 20 miles of Chaco Canyon.

BLM has acknowledged it never analyzed how this fracking boom will impact public health and the environment, and has no plan in place to protect the region's air, water and communities. We hope you will choose to lead in sensibly prioritizing the health of local communities, the integrity of these irreplaceable cultural resources, and Greater Chaco's clean air and water over more profits to one of the most profitable – and harmful – industries in the state and the country.

We are submitting the collective petitions attached requesting your leadership supporting a moratorium on fracking in Greater Chaco until BLM completes its related Resource Management Plan. The court may have ruled that maintaining oil and gas company profits is more important than protecting culture, communities, and climate, but attached are the voices of more than 165,302 citizens who disagree.

Signed,

WildEarth Guardians  
CREDO Action  
\*Native Voice Network  
Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment  
Environment New Mexico  
The Global Warming Express  
Western Environmental Law Center  
Food & Water Watch  
Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club  
Force Change  
New Mexico Move On

\*Native Voice Network Member Organizations include:

American Indian Center of Chicago  
American Indian Community Council of Los Angeles  
American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Mission  
Americans for Indian Opportunity  
Binational Center for the Development of Oaxacan Indigenous Communities

Black Mesa Water Coalition  
Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment  
First Alaskans Institute  
First Nations Development Institute  
First People's Fund  
Hopi Foundation  
Indian Law Resource Center  
Kwatson Radio  
Native American Community Development Institute  
Native American Voter Alliance  
Native American Youth and Family Center  
Native Americans in Philanthropy  
Native Youth Leadership Alliance  
National Indian Child Welfare Association  
National Urban Indian Family Coalition  
Phoenix Indian Center  
Red Eagle Soaring  
Santa Fe Leadership Institute  
Tewa Women United  
Tonatierra Community Development Institute  
Tucson Indian Center  
Washington State Indian Civil Rights Commission