



## State of New Mexico

**Susana Martinez**  
*Governor*

February 29, 2012

Secretary Ken Salazar  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

I write to express my support for your Department's continued and thorough review of the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project's application to build up to two major high-voltage transmission lines in southern and central portions of New Mexico. The SunZia Project would enable New Mexico to continue our strong heritage of supplying energy resources to our Nation while also strengthening the region's vital electricity infrastructure.

The Bureau of Land Management is conducting a complete environmental review, while the Department of Defense has determined that the SunZia Project is compatible with military missions in the Project area.

New Mexico State University estimates that SunZia will create thousands of good jobs during the construction and operation of the Project. Additionally, SunZia will enable more jobs as it attracts electricity generators to New Mexico. Electricity generation enabled by SunZia will contribute millions of new property tax dollars to depleted county treasuries.

The Project will help New Mexico's school children since much of the Project in New Mexico will be located on State Trust Lands. Lease revenues generated on those lands are dedicated to public education and other public institutions.

The SunZia Project would enable needed jobs and revenues, strengthen the region's electricity grid, maintain military mission, and open-up electricity markets to new electricity generation projects inside my state.

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Secretary Ken Salazar  
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I urge your thorough, but expeditious review of the environmental studies that will help advance the SunZia Project to becoming a commercial reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susana Martinez".

Susana Martinez  
Governor