

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

County of Luna

Joe "Oleo" Milo, Jr.
Commissioner, District 1

J. Jay Spivey, Chairman
Commissioner, District 2



R. Javier Diaz
Commissioner, District 3

Kelly Kuenstler
County Manager

700 South Silver Avenue • Post Office Box 551 • Deming, New Mexico 88031
Telephone (575) 546-0494 Facsimile (575) 544-4293

April 20, 2012

Secretary Ken Salazar
US Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

RE: Sun Zia Transmission Project

Dear Secretary Salazar:

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

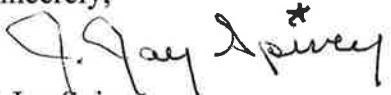
The Bureau of Land Management is conducting a complete environmental review, and the Pentagon has determined that the Sun Zia Project is compatible with military missions in the project area. Although the work that has been done is appreciated, the underlying concern is the time the BLM is taking to release the draft Environmental Impact Statement, as we understand the draft was due to be released last year.

We need the jobs that New Mexico State University estimates that Sun Zia will bring to our area during the construction and operation of the project. Additionally, Sun Zia will enable many more jobs as it attracts electricity generators to New Mexico. Electricity generation enabled by Sun Zia 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 will be located on New Mexico State Trust Lands. Lease revenues generated on those lands are dedicated to public education. The Sun Zia Project will 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 New Mexico.

I would like to ask your assistance by encouraging the BLM to move the review process ahead to enable us to benefit while there are still renewable energy prospects looking in our area to build. On behalf of Luna County, thank you in advance for understanding what the renewables mean to citizens of New Mexico.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Jay Spivey". The "J" is large and stylized, the "a" has a small loop, and there is a small star-like mark above the "i".

J. Jay Spivey

Luna County Commission Chairman