



New Mexico State Senate

State Capitol
Santa Fe

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**BLM, NMSO
SANTA FE**

June 29, 2021

Melanie Barnes
Acting State Director
Bureau of Land Management
301 Dinosaur Trail
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Re: SunZia Southwest Transmission Project Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Acting Director Barnes:

I am writing to express support for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) continued, thorough, and timely review of the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project's right-of-way (ROW) amendment that was originally issued in 2016. The SunZia project will enable new electric transmission infrastructure which is vital to strengthening our region's electricity grid and positioning New Mexico as a leader in the renewable generation industry.

Over much of my New Mexico legislative career I have become familiar with the SunZia Project and am encouraged by its progress towards the development of clean energy and positive economic benefits for New Mexicans. SunZia is key to unlocking New Mexico's renewable energy resources to bring sustainable economic development to our state and move us forward toward our goal of becoming a carbon-free environment

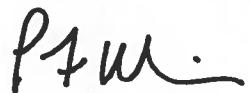
It is my understanding that a recent economic impact report, conducted by Moss Adams, estimates that SunZia will create thousands of jobs in construction and operations while enabling even more wind generation employment throughout eastern and central parts of New Mexico.

SunZia representatives have worked tirelessly to identify alternative routes that address military and environmental needs, parallel existing transmission lines, and be highly responsive to various stakeholder issues. They have spent numerous years working with local landowners,

communities and governmental entities to establish the most environmentally responsible and efficient path to build this important project in New Mexico and Arizona.

I encourage timely completion of BLM's public review period and want to thank you for your consideration and expeditious approval of the SunZia Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P Wirth".

Peter Wirth
Senate Majority Leader