



May 24, 2017

Secretary Ryan Zinke
Monument Review, MS-1530
US Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

Re: DOI-2017-0002 Monument Review

Dear Secretary Zinke,

As the Mayor of the Village of Taos Ski Valley, New Mexico, I am writing to express my concern over the recent Executive Order to review recently designated Monuments and to voice my support for the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.

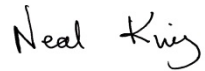
The Village of Taos Ski Valley is surrounded by Public Lands, and our entire local economy is based on tourism and outdoor recreation. The Rio Grande del Norte National Monument offers TSV visitors a multitude of non-skiing outdoor recreation activities; from hiking and biking to ballooning and rafting. This is especially important for us, during the summer, non-skiing months.

Tourism brings billions of dollars into New Mexico, and the Village of Taos Ski Valley directly benefits from public lands conservation, specifically from the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. It is a vital component of our local economy. When people come to Taos Ski Valley to recreate on our public lands, it creates jobs and generates revenue for our town and our local businesses.

The Village of Taos Ski Valley was, and still is, a strong supporter of Monument Designation for Rio Grande del Norte, and were active participants in the National Monument process, going back to supporting the efforts to establish the area as a National Conservation Area, beginning in 2009. As Mayor, I attended and spoke at public meetings, and submitted letters of support to our local BLM Taos Field Office.

Secretary Zinke, the Village of Taos Ski Valley was very much involved with, and most definitely participated in the process to establish the Rio Grande del Norte. The Village of Taos Ski Valley strongly supports this National Monument designation, and I am asking you to recommend that the Rio Grande del Norte not be modified in any way.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neal King". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Neal King, Mayor
Village of Taos Ski Valley
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