



Farm Credit of New Mexico

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November 29, 2006

Representative Heather A. Wilson
United States House of Representatives
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Wilson:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Farm Credit of New Mexico, I am writing to encourage you to vote **AGAINST** proposed legislation that would:

- Designate 8-10 Wilderness Study areas in Dona Ana County consisting of approximately 216,500 – 422,138 acres as additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System
- Create a 35,000 – 108,000 acre National Conservation Area for the Organ Mountains
- Acknowledge approximately 65,000 acres listed for disposal in the BLM Resource Management Plan, create an Advisory Board to advise on land disposals, and designate 10% of land sale proceeds to Dona Ana County, 10% to the City of Las Cruces, and 80% of remainder for land acquisitions, and the balance for reimbursement of disposal costs and conservation purposes
- Authorize NMSU/BLM exchange of land and mineral interests
- Authorize Phelps Dodge/BLM land exchange

The Board is very concerned about the effect the proposed legislation will have on property values in the affected areas, and is especially concerned for the continued viability of ranching on federal lands in Dona Ana County. This legislation would negatively affect the lives and livelihoods of dozens of ranching families in this area and could seriously jeopardize their ability to finance their operations.

Please vote **AGAINST** any proposed legislation regarding this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Bruce L. McAbee
President & CEO
Farm Credit of New Mexico

Cc: Tom Mobley