

R. Javier Diaz, Chairman of the Luna County Commission, issued the following statement based on written testimony to be provided to the Senate Committee On Energy and Natural Resources:

“It is the understanding of the Luna County Commission that The Potrillo Mountain, Luna County component of the proposed wilderness in S. 1689 is 23,556 acres and is in two separate parcels.”

“A wilderness designation, which disallows the use of motorized vehicles or mechanical equipment, can have a negative impact on campers, hunters, ranchers and the issuance of right-of-ways. A wilderness designation, by denying vehicular access, will prevent the effective operation of the Border Patrol and state and local law enforcement including search and rescue teams.”

“The Luna County Commission has not been party to any of the discussions, private or public, that have led to this legislation.”

“Luna County citizens are entitled to representation into such federal attempts to designate wilderness in their county”

“I request no further action be taken on S. 1689 until such time as the Luna County Commission has been thoroughly briefed on this legislation including being provided the official maps of the proposed wilderness designations.”

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