

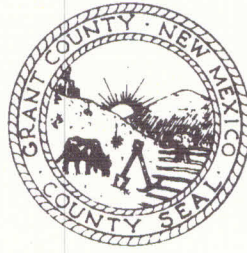
GRANT COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS

GABRIEL J. RAMOS
DISTRICT 1

BRETT A. KASTEN
DISTRICT 2

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DISTRICT 3



COUNTY MANAGER
JON PAUL SAARI

Telephone: (575) 574-0008
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August 16, 2012

Adrian Garcia, NM State BLM Office
SunZia Transmission Project
PO Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115

Re: Support of SunZia Project

Dear Mr. Garcia,

As Chairman of Grant County I would like to thank the BLM for the thorough Draft Environmental Impact Statement and desire to support your findings and suggested route for the SunZia electrical transmission lines. We are aware of several companies who have an interest with building both solar and wind generation in Grant County. New Mexico has the wind needed to attract generation companies and southwest New Mexico has some of the best solar available. Without new electrical lines we do not have capacity in our existing transmission lines to export these valuable resources and create employment and needed revenue.

As you are aware Southwest New Mexico is ideal for both wind and solar generation; and with our elevation, cooler temperatures, plenty of sunshine we have the best location in the US for solar generation. New Mexico's wind resources, which compliment our solar potential and creates a 24-7 package that would require less firming resources using traditional sources of fuel.

Southwest New Mexico needs and welcomes any economic boost the offered by the renewable energy industry through construction and operation of electrical transmission, wind, solar and geo-thermo renewable projects. Please help us by keeping SunZia on track with a timely Final EIS to allow New Mexico to enjoy the benefits from world class renewable resources.

As county officials we understand the complexity of planning a project such as SunZia and everyone will not be happy with changes and at times, we are called upon to make decisions that benefit the majority. Our County needs the benefits the SunZia electrical transmission lines will bring in future years and the creation of new revenue opportunities and much needed employment for our area and the State of New Mexico. Thank you again for all your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett Kasten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Brett Kasten, Commission Chairman

XC: Jessie Juen, New Mexico BLM Director
Mike Pool, National Acting BLM Director