

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Office of the Mayor



June 17, 2004

Martin J. Chávez, Mayor

Linda Rundell
Director of Land Management
1474 Rodeo Rd.
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Director Rundell:

Thank you for the chance to comment on the proposal to open up Otero Mesa to energy exploration and development.

r 505-768-3000

Few issues of late have generated the level of interest or concern that the proposal to open up Otero Mesa to fossil fuels development has. This area is clearly in need of more protection than it currently rates, and the overwhelming input of the interested New Mexico public needs to carry greater weight with federal policy makers than I fear it has to date.

P O Box 1293

Albuquerque

While I understand that energy supplies are presently tight, and that the consumer is feeling the pinch at the pump, I do not believe opening up new leases when so many of the existing ones are yet to be exploited is the answer.

New Mexico 87103

And as a state that relies so heavily on subterranean sources for our drinking water, we also need to be fully satisfied that the groundwater in the area would be safe from contamination. I, for one, do not believe this concern has been adequately addressed to date.

martinchavez@cabq.gov

I therefore urge you to honor the wishes and concerns of so many New Mexicans who worry about a fragile ecosystem and potential groundwater contamination, and put potential drilling at Otero Mesa on hold until a plan acceptable to New Mexico's conservationist community and wilderness advocates is developed.

Thank you for your consideration of this most critical New Mexico issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Martin J. Chávez", written over a horizontal line.

Martin J. Chávez,
Mayor