



October 26, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

We write to invite you to visit El Paso, Texas on Saturday, November 19th so you can see firsthand why a Castner Range National Monument designation is so important to our community.

With a history that dates back 10,000 years, Castner Range is one of our country's only mountain ranges located in the middle of an urban area and its treasured 7,081 acres are home to rich wildlife, three distinct ecosystems, a wide array of vegetation and artifacts that tell the first stories of the Americas. We believe your visit to Castner Range — known locally as the Crown Jewel of West Texas — will help you better understand why it should be forever protected for all Americans to enjoy.

We also feel that a national monument designation would complement this Administration's dedication toward increasing access to and promoting diversity within our public lands system. Its 7,081 acres sit between the largest binational community in the world and are of benefit to an ever-growing Mexican-American community, many of whose members have modest household incomes. El Paso is also among the ten poorest communities in the United States. Further, El Paso County, with close to 900,000 residents, is 83% Hispanic and is physically, culturally and historically connected to Ciudad Juárez, the cross-border Mexican city of nearly 1.5 million.

Since the beginning of the year, more than 32,000 El Pasoans, including over 100 businesses and thousands of students, have supported the effort to make Castner Range our nation's next national monument. This unprecedented level of local support has also inspired those beyond our border community. State and national conservation groups have since pledged their resources and time by asking President Obama to make Castner Range one of the final places he protects before leaving office on January 20, 2017. We join them and our Congressman, Rep. Beto O'Rourke, who wrote you on August 25th, in asking that you come and see why a Castner Range National Monument means so much to our place in the world.

Our community also understands that it too must play a part in ensuring the best outcome as Castner Range transitions from being a former artillery range to a protected American treasure. That is why we have nearly \$1.5 million that has been pledged to assist the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in developing a long-term management plan of the land. And that is why our three largest school districts have pledged their resources to send 4th graders to this new monument.

We understand that dedicating Castner as a national monument is just the first step in fostering the next generation of outdoor visitors, supporters, and advocates. We also understand that your Department is under immense pressure to shape the next 100 years of our nation's public lands system, especially as this Administration enters its final days in office.

We believe that your visit will help you and your office to better understand why a Castner Range National Monument will pay dividends as the world's largest binational community begins to lead the efforts to increase diversity within our National Conservation Lands and our National Park System.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to showing you our beloved border community and working with you to preserve this treasured land for future generations.

Sincerely,

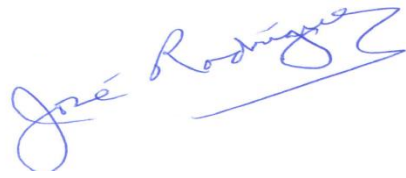
CC: Senior Advisor to President Obama, Brian Deese

CC: White House Council on Environmental Quality Managing Director, Christy Goldfuss

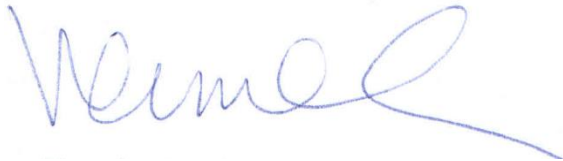
CC: Bureau of Land Management Director, Neil Kornze



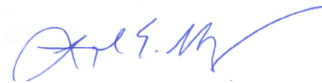
Oscar Leeser, Mayor, El Paso, Texas



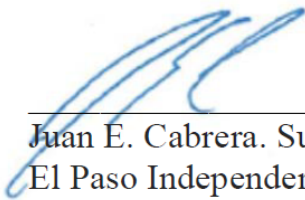
Texas State Senator José Rodríguez
Dist. 29 [El Paso, Hudspeth et al. Counties]



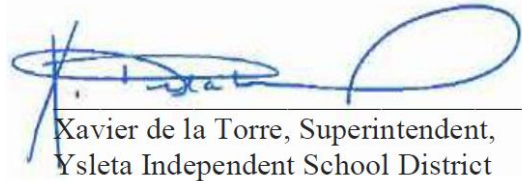
Veronica Escobar
County Judge [Executive], El Paso County



Texas State Representative Joe Moody
(Dist. 78 [Castner Range, Franklin Mnts.])



Juan E. Cabrera, Superintendent,
El Paso Independent School District



Xavier de la Torre, Superintendent,
Ysleta Independent School District



Dr. Pedro Galaviz, Superintendent,
Canutillo Independent School District



Representative Carl Robinson, City Council
District 4

Governors of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo



Governor Carlos Hisa



Lt. Governor Christopher Gomez



War Captain Javier Loera




Aguacil Bernie Gonzales



Councilman Frank Gomez



Councilman Michael Silvas



Councilman Ralph Gomez



Councilman Robert Pedraza



Scott Cutler, President, The Frontera Land Alliance



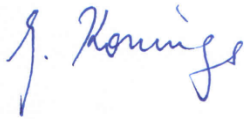
Eric Pearson, President and CEO, the El Paso Community Foundation



Richard Teschner, President, Friends of the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



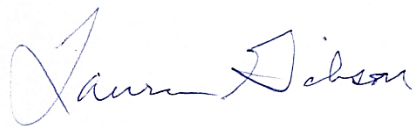
Scott Cutler, President, Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition




Dr. Gertrud Konings, President, Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition



Jean-Claude Linossi, President, El Paso Cactus and Rock Club



Laurence Gibson, President, El Paso Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter



Joe Molinar, President, Castner Heights Neighborhood Association



Samuel P. Thompson, President, North Hills Neighborhood Pride Association



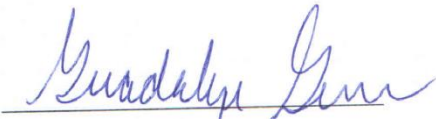
LTC (RET) Pauline Ballesteros, Commander Military Order of the World Wars – El Paso



Karen Beamon, President,
El Paso Sergeants major Association



Kathleen Anderson, President, Board of
The Unitarian Universalist Community of El Paso



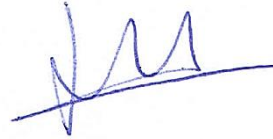
Guadalupe Giner, President, Travis
White Neighborhood Association



Christi DeBates, President, Park North
Neighborhood Association



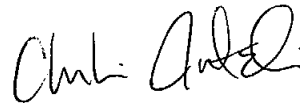
Marshall Carter-Tripp, President,
Palisades Neighborhood Association



Janet Monteros, President, League of
Women Voters of El Paso



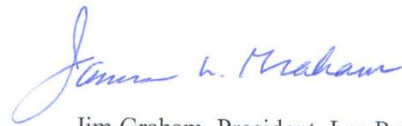
Jim Tolbert, Religious Society of Friends,
El Paso Monthly Meeting



Charlie Intebi, President, Kern Place
[Neighborhood] Association



Richard Teschner, Chair, El Paso
Neighborhood Coalition and Council



Jim Graham, President, Las Palmas
Neighborhood Association