February 28, 2017

The Honorable Susana Martinez  
Governor of New Mexico  
490 Old Santa Fe Trail  
Room 400  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Martinez,

As faith, conservation, and community leaders from New Mexico, we respectfully ask that you act in the best interest of New Mexicans to oppose the construction of President Trump's proposed border wall on our state's 179 miles of land bordering Mexico.

Mexico is our state's largest trading partner, representing more than $1.68 billion in goods and services exchanged annually. International trade, including exports and imports, support more than 217,000 New Mexico jobs - that's one in five. As you know, success in the export market is critical to diversifying our state's economy. The volatility of global energy markets has had a profound effect on New Mexico's families and economy, most recently leading to a $69 million state budget shortfall and a projected deficit of $250 million in 2018.

By opposing this border wall, and instead promoting a political, financial, and economic climate where trade with Mexico is valued and encouraged, New Mexico can grow its burgeoning international trade sector in areas such as Santa Teresa and Columbus. The Mexican import tariffs proposed by the Trump administration to force Mexico to finance the construction of this wall would have a profound impact on the ability of our state to grow this international trade sector and create new, sustainable jobs. A recent study by WalletHub indicates that New Mexico would be the fourth state most economically impacted by a trade war with Mexico, a reality that New Mexican families simply cannot afford.

Additionally, New Mexico benefits from vast, open areas on its southern border that are yet to be developed for industrial, light manufacturing, storage, warehouse, and logistics businesses. These businesses are being actively recruited by publically and privately funded economic development organizations because of the potential growth opportunities that our border represents - a competitive advantage over other border states. Trump's proposed border wall could also severely hamper initiatives to build a planned bi-national railway that would bring additional economic opportunities and jobs to our state and southern border and complement Union Pacific's $400 million rail facility just built in Santa Teresa.
New Mexico shares a rich bi-national culture with Mexico dating back centuries. In Columbus, for example, during the Bi-National Cavalry Trail Remembrance Day, riders on horseback from both countries come together and cross the border in a sign of friendship and remembrance of the Punitive Expedition, an event widely advertised by the New Mexico Department of Tourism. For at least a decade, the City of Sunland Park, neighbor to Anapra, Mexico, has sought to build an international pedestrian crossing to increase visitation from Mexican tourists and to facilitate visitation between families who live on both sides of the border.

Each year, the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Las Cruces and El Paso host a joint pilgrimage at Mount Cristo Rey, a symbolic mountain that straddles the New Mexico, Mexico, and Texas borders, in a show of cultural and spiritual unity. Across from Antelope Wells, New Mexico, planners from the state of Chihuahua are nearing the final stages of completing a bi-national road to connect our two countries and spur new economic development opportunities and further strengthen the ties between New Mexico and the States of Chihuahua and Sonora. In Doña Ana County, the Mexican national flag is emblazoned in the plaza of the Town of Mesilla, a tribute to the Doña Ana Bend Colony, the Mexican land grant colony that paved the way for the modern-day Mesilla Valley.

**Building a border wall in New Mexico to divide our two nations would undermine centuries of shared history between our two countries that brings New Mexicans pride, a sense of identity, and tourism opportunities.**

Life on our border extends beyond human habitation and a shared culture. In the vast Chihuahuan Desert and Coronado National Forest, thousands of diverse wildlife species thrive and migrate across our shared border for survival. The heart of one of the the largest and most ecologically diverse wildlife corridors in all of the Americas exists at the center of the wall’s proposed construction site. The southern end of the Rocky Mountains, the northern end of the Sierra Madres and the edges of both the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts all intersect on New Mexico’s border.

Regional native species, including desert bighorn sheep, Sonoran pronghorn, Coues deer, jaguar to myriad game and songbirds and non-game mammals and reptiles depend upon the unwalled border corridor for their survival. These species migrate across the different existing international barriers in search of food, mates, sources of water, and to ensure the survival of their species. Beyond our shared responsibility to co-habitate with wildlife, these species also serve critical needs to the people of New Mexico, including the sustainability of our food supply, economic development through hunting, wildlife watching, and other recreation opportunities, and also help ensure we keep our desert and forest ecosystems in conditions that mitigate the impact of flash flooding and forest fires. Additionally, the Mexican government has stated its opposition to the border wall on many grounds, including the negative impacts on shared ecosystems and wildlife corridors along the border that both countries mutually manage.
The construction of such a wall on New Mexico's border would have devastating impacts on our economy, our shared bi-national culture, and our environment and wildlife. New Mexico is a land of inclusivity - not a place that turns people away and turns its back on its shared culture. In the best interest of the people of New Mexico, we ask that you do everything within your power to oppose the border wall proposed by President Trump’s Administration within the boundaries of the State of New Mexico.

With gratitude,

**Rev. Andrew Black**
First Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe, NM

**Sr. Joan Brown, OSF**
Executive Director
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light,
Albuquerque, NM

**Robert Woodruff**
Pastor
Second Presbyterian Church
Albuquerque, NM

**Pam Fraser-Walters**
President
New Mexico Interfaith Dialogue
Albuquerque, NM

**Nancy Rice**
Clerk of Hospitality Committee
Religious Society of Friends
Albuquerque, NM

**Ashley Zappe**
Youth Group Leader
Holy Trinity Orthodox Parish, Santa Fe, NM

**Sylvia Miller-Mutia**
Rector
St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church,
Albuquerque, NM

**Donnel Miller-Mutia**
Bereavement Counselor

**Hospice Compassus, Albuquerque, NM**

**H. Blaine Wimberly**
Pastor
Zia United Methodist Church, Santa Fe, NM

**Rev. Elizabeth McMaster (ret.)**
Albuquerque, NM

**Seth Finch**
Pastor
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Albuquerque, NM

**Rabbi Paul J. Citrin**
Taos Jewish Center, Taos, NM

**Rev. Dr. Nancy Hitt**
Consulting Minister
Unitarian Universalist Westside Congregation, Rio Rancho, NM

**Rev. Sue Joiner**
Senior Minister
1st Congregational United Church of Christ,
Albuquerque, NM

**Rev. Talitha Arnold**
Senior Minister
The United Church of Santa Fe

**Rev. Vincent Paul Chá**
Pastor
Saint Therese of the Infant Jesus Parish and School, Albuquerque, NM

**Joel P. Garner**
Abbot
Santa Maria de la Vid Abbey
Albuquerque, NM

**Rev. Robert Aubrey (ret.)**
CCSW, New Mexico and Texas

**Rev. James Brown**
Presbyterian Church (USA), Santa Fe, NM

**Deacon Lynn Anner-Bolieu (ret.)**
Episcopal Church of Navajoland (ECUSA)

**Deacon Lynn Anner-Bolieu (ret.)**
Episcopal Church of Navajoland (ECUSA)

**Rev. Pamela Shepherd**
Taos, NM

**Rev. Karen Bash**
Church of the Good Shepherd UCC
Albuquerque, NM

**Rev. Allan Bash**
Church of the Good Shepherd UCC
Albuquerque, NM

**Rev. Warren J Broussard, S.J.**
Immaculate Conception Church
Albuquerque, NM

**Mary Jo Lundy**
Presbyterian Elder
Santa Fe, NM

**The Rev. Rhonda McIntire (ret.)**
Episcopal Priest
Albuquerque, NM

**Donald Conklin**
Pastoral Associate (ret.)
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church
Albuquerque, NM

**George Muedeking**
Mission Elder
Mennonite Church, Albuquerque, NM

**Rabbi Neil Amswych**
Temple Beth Shalom, Santa Fe, NM

**Karin Granberg-Michaelson**
Retired Hospital Chaplain
Santa Fe, NM

**Carol Edling Jolly**
Associate Minister for Pastoral Care
United Church of Santa Fe UI

**Barbara Gabioud**
Chair, Board of Directors
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Silver City

**Rev. Virginia Bairby**
First Presbyterian Church of Taos

**Michael Buttram**
Outreach and Youth Ministry
United Church of Santa Fe

**Rev. James M. Collie**
Parish Associate
La Mesa Presbyterian Church
Albuquerque, NM

**Father Gene Fries**
Norbertine Community Santa Maria de la Vid Abbey, Albuquerque, NM

**Rev. Sylvia-Miller Mutia**
St. Thomas of Canterbury
Albuquerque, NM

Father Vincent Chavez
St. Therese School and Parish
Albuquerque, NM

Rev. Anita Amstutz
Ordained Mennonite Minister
Albuquerque, NM

Marlene Perrotte
Sister of Mercy
Albuquerque, NM

Garrett VeneKlasen
Executive Director
New Mexico Wildlife Federation, Taos, NM

Gabe Vasquez
Co-Founder
Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project
Las Cruces, NM

Michael Casaus
New Mexico State Director
The Wilderness Society
Albuquerque, NM

Allyson Siwik
Executive Director
Gila Resources Information Project
Silver City, NM

M.H. Dutch Salmon
Chairman
Gila Conservation Coalition, Silver City, NM

Mark Allison
Executive Director
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
Albuquerque, NM

Diana Hadley

President
Northern Jaguar Project
Hidalgo County, NM

Nathan Rees
Trout Unlimited
New Mexico & Arizona

John Horning
Executive Director
WildEarth Guardians (NM)

Cathy Bailey
Secretary and Chair of Governance Committee
WildEarth Guardians, Santa Fe, NM

Teresa Seamster
Chair, Northern New Mexico Group
Sierra Club, Santa Fe, NM

David Coss
Chair, Rio Grande Chapter
Sierra Club, Santa Fe, NM

Susan Ostlie
Leader
Rio Grande Valley Broadband of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Albuquerque, NM

Linda Starr
Co-Leader
Rio Grande Valley Broadband of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Albuquerque, NM

Oscar Simpson
State Chair/Legislative Chair
New Mexico Sportsmen/Backcountry Horsemen of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM
Guy Dicharry  
Co-Founder/Attorney at Law  
Wildlife Conservation Advocacy Southwest, Inc. (WCASW)  
Los Lunas, NM

Thomas Stewart  
President  
Native Plant Society of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM

Jeff Swanson  
President/Retired Military Chaplain  
Southern New Mexico Public Lands Alliance  
Alamogordo, NM

Donna Swanson  
Member and Retired Educator  
Southern New Mexico Public Lands Alliance & Otero County Public Land Use Council  
Alamogordo, NM

Michael Robinson  
Conservation Advocate  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Silver City, NM

Bryan Bird  
Southwest Program Director  
Defenders of Wildlife, Santa Fe, NM

Javier Perea  
Mayor  
City of Sunland Park

Gregory Z. Smith  
Mayor Pro Tem  
City of Las Cruces

Angelica Rubio  
New Mexico State Representative  
District 35, Las Cruces, NM

Joanne Ferrary  
New Mexico State Representative  
District 37, Las Cruces, NM

Bill McCamley  
New Mexico State Representative  
District 33, Mesilla Park, NM

Javier Martinez  
New Mexico State Representative  
District 11, Albuquerque, NM

John Vasquez  
County Commissioner  
District 5, Doña Ana County, NM

Billy G. Garrett  
County Commissioner  
District 1, Doña Ana County, NM

Eric Rodriguez  
Treasurer  
Doña Ana County, NM

Renee Villarreal  
City of Santa Fe City Councilor  
District 1, Santa Fe, NM

Ray Jaramillo  
Board Member  
District 1, Las Cruces Public Schools

Maria A. Flores  
Board Member, President  
District 3, Las Cruces Public Schools

Charles Goodmacher  
Government Relations  
National Education Association (NM)
Sarah Silva  
Executive Director  
NM CAFe, Las Cruces, NM

Dr. Ernest Flores, MD  
Las Cruces, NM

Jutta Stonawski  
Teacher of the Gifted  
Gallup-McKinley County Schools  
Gallup, NM

Felipe Gonzalez  
Professor  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM

Kathryn Wichelns  
Assistant Professor of English  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM

Mia Sosa-Provencio  
Assistant Professor  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM

Adrian Telles  
Teacher  
Albuquerque Public Schools

Don Zancanella  
Emeritus Professor  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM

Orlando Carrillo-Jiménez  
Former Colonias Infrastructure Board Member, La Mesa, NM

Olivia Provencio-Johnson  
Administrative Coordinator  
International Community Health Services

Dan Olson  
Executive Director  
San Juan Citizens Alliance

D.W. Hadley  
Part Owner  
Guadalupe Ranch  
Hidalgo County, NM

Carrie Hamblen  
CEO/President  
Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce

Claudia Bianca  
Owner of RET  
Taos, NM

Denise Chavez  
Director  
Casa Camino Real Bookstore & Art Gallery,  
Las Cruces, NM

Angel Peña  
Co-Owner  
Out Back A’Horse Back  
Radium Springs, NM

Mollie McGraw, Esq.  
Las Cruces, NM

CC: U.S. Senator Tom Udall (NM)  
U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (NM)  
U.S. Representative Steve Pearce (NM)
U.S. Representative Ben Ray Lujan (NM)
U.S. Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM)
City of Las Cruces City Council