



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

July 8, 2026

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Melanie Stansbury
U.S. House of Representatives
1421 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senate
498 Russel Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Teresa Leger Fernandez
United States House of Representatives
2417 Rayburn House Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gabriel Vasquez
United States House of Representatives
322 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear New Mexico Congressional Delegation,

I am writing in strong support of the land transfer within the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area from the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, to the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, to be held in trust for the Pueblo of Sandia.

Congress established the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area in 2003 to recognize and protect the Pueblo of Sandia's profound historical, cultural, and religious connection to the Sandia Mountains. The Preservation Trust Area encompasses 9,890 acres within the 37,877-acre Sandia Mountain Wilderness. While the U.S. Forest Service currently manages the area—alongside four National Forests covering more than 9 million acres—the Pueblo of Sandia has, since passage of the Act, demonstrated consistent stewardship and has fully met its responsibilities under the law.

The Sandia Mountains are among the most visited natural areas in New Mexico, and the strain on an overextended federal land-management system is increasingly evident. Long-time residents and tribal communities alike understand the deep significance of the Mountain, and the Pueblo of Sandia is uniquely positioned to support improved stewardship, public safety, and ecological protection. Transferring this land into trust will bring additional resources, deepen

intergovernmental coordination, and mobilize the Pueblo's long-standing expertise in forestry, cultural resource protection, and wildland management.

Importantly, the proposed transfer will not alter existing public uses. All previously authorized rights-of-way for utilities, roads, and infrastructure will remain in place, ensuring continued public access and enjoyment. This approach strengthens cultural preservation, improves land and resource management, and maintains long-established recreational access for New Mexicans and visitors.

This land transfer represents a meaningful step toward honoring our shared history while supporting responsible and sustainable land stewardship. For these reasons, I respectfully encourage the New Mexico Congressional delegation to support legislation effectuating this transfer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Lujan Grisham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor