



Council of Border Conservation Districts

c/o Deming SWCD, 405 E. Florida, Deming, NM 88030 (575) 546-9692

April 21, 2020

Senator Martin Heinrich
c/o Dara Parker@heinrich.senate.gov
Office of U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich
201 N. Church Street, Suite 201B
Las Cruces, NM 88001

RE: Draft Bill to designate certain segments of the Gila River system and the San Francisco River in the State of New Mexico as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and for other purposes.

Dear Senator Heinrich:

Council of Border Conservation Districts (CBCD) would like to take this opportunity to provide additional comments on your pending Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) bill.

Our CBCD represents 132,000 citizens in Southwest NN; many of whom are informed of the WSR proposal. We hope that you will kindly respond to our previous requests to meet with you so you can better understand our concerns and recommendations regarding your proposed Wild and Scenic Rivers bill. Please refer to our correspondence to your office dated September 20, 2020.

Please consider these concerns of the CBCD Board of Supervisors:

- A. Proposed WSR Designation would adversely impact New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation District's statutory responsibilities for conservation of our natural resources.**
- B. Potential litigation and significant adverse effects from WSR designations on agriculture, private property rights, natural resource treatments, and public works.**
- C. The proposed *Custodians* for WSR River Management Plans (RMP).**
- D. The proposed WSR impairing future water supplies and infringing on New Mexico's sovereign authority over its waters.**
- F. The proposed WSR potential adverse effects for proper natural resource management and projects to the tributaries to the Gila and San Francisco River designated WSR.**

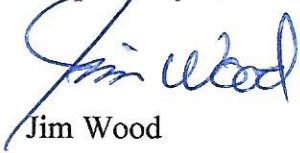
Furthermore, CBCD respectfully petitions that our congressional delegation uphold New Mexico Soil & Water Conservation District's statutory responsibilities and honor and support the attached NM House Memorial to protect the unique customs and cultures and supporting agriculture - as it pertains to our life supporting waterways.

The proposed WSR legislation calls for the designation of a large part of our waterways as wild and scenic designations.

We welcome honest dialogue with our board. Therefore, **CBCD Board requests to meet with you or your staff to discuss Southwest NM conservation district concerns and to provide demonstrable alternative initiatives for improving these precious and dependable river ecosystems.** The CBCD can set up a meeting for your visit to include all potentially affected conservation districts and acequias.

We look forward to working with you on setting up a meeting. Please contact our Project Coordinator, Katherine Turner at demingswcd@yahoo.com to make arrangements for your visit.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jim Wood
CBCD Chairman

Attachment: Council of Border Conservation District's Concerns Regarding the Proposed Wild & Scenic Rivers Bill

Exhibit 1: WSR Litigation Cases

Exhibit 2: The Potential Impact of Federal Laws On State Water Supplies" *Texas A&M Journal of Property Law*, Vol1,#99, 2013: