

Otero County Board of Commissioners
1101 New York Avenue
Room 123
Alamogordo NM 88310

June 25, 2021

RE: Federal Government's Land Use Project Titled "30 x 30" and the Otero County Board of County Commissioner's (BOCC) Resolution No. 05-13-21/109-57

Dear Commissioners:

During the June 23, 2021 meeting of the Public Land Use Advisory Council (PLUAC) we discussed President Biden's Executive Order 14008, "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad," 86 Fed. Reg 7,619., better known as the "30 x 30" Land Grab. It was noted that the Otero County BOCC had passed a resolution expressing concern about this new land use scheme.

PLUAC is unanimous in supporting this BOCC resolution and we thank the BOCC for their efforts.

PLUAC further recommends that the resolution (No. 05-13-21/109-57) not be the end of the County's preparation to protect the county. Implementation of a "30 x 30" style Federal program would severely impact Otero County, for example the tax base would be negatively impacted. We urge the Commissioners to review existing County Ordinances to see if any of them would apply to this proposal by President Biden. Possibly one or more of the current Ordinances are relevant or could be amended to apply in this particular situation in order to "provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity and improve the morals, order, comfort and convenience of any county or its inhabitants.". If there are no applicable Ordinances, PLUAC members encourage the Commission to proactively limit negative impacts to the county and its residents through new County Ordinances. Any new ordinances must also address and protect private property rights. We recommend that this ordinance review be started immediately rather than wait until the Federal Program has begun.

PLUAC would remind the Commissioners that we are a resource (thus the "Public Land Use" in PLUAC) for the County and a natural fit to be involved in any solutions. We are, after all commissioned to support private property rights as well as the County's best interest in Federal Land use. We want to help.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
/s/Gary Scarbrough
PLUAC Chairman