



June 17, 2022  
Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office  
Attention: SunZia Southwest Transmission Project  
Project Manager, Adrian Garcia  
301 Dinosaur Trail  
Santa Fe, NM. 87508

I'm writing in support of the Bureau of Land Management's SunZia Transmission Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Preferred Alternative Route.

Independent power producers founded the New Mexico Independent Power Producers' Association in 1989 and the Arizona Competitive Power Alliance in 2001 in order to give consumers access to competitive power. I am the Executive Director of both groups. In the last 30 years, private companies have invested billions of dollars in order to provide clean, reliable and affordable power throughout the west. These private investments have saved consumers hundreds of millions of dollars while creating jobs, increasing the tax base and supplying reliable, clean power. The SunZia project is a critical component of that system.

Nature has often placed sources of energy far away from locations where humans have placed the uses of energy. That means that energy must be moved in order to be used. Pipelines carry natural gas while trains carry coal and uranium. These traditional forms of transportation are themselves energy intensive and leave a large footprint. Electric transmission provides instantaneous, cost effective and efficient energy transfer with a smaller environmental impact than pipelines or rail. Moreover, electric transmission is the only way to transfer wind energy from the location of its source to the location of its use. Harnessing and transporting wind energy is an essential step towards creating a lower carbon grid that remains cost effective and reliable.

The SunZia project will provide 4,500 MW of transfer capacity from wind resources of eastern New Mexico to the load requirements of Arizona and California. This \$4 billion private investment will not only create jobs and expand the tax base, but it will also add billions of dollars of value by providing a market for clean, renewable, wind energy that would otherwise be wasted.

I encourage BLM to approve the SunZia project as a critical step in the transition to a prosperous, reliable, cost-effective, carbon-free future.

Respectfully

Greg Patterson  
Director of AZCPA & NMIPP