

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
SANTA FE COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 2019 - 70**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO ENACT ‘THE CHACO
CULTURAL HERITAGE AREA PROTECTION ACT, S. 1079’ TO WITHDRAW THE
FEDERAL LANDS AROUND CHACO CANYON FROM FURTHER MINERAL
DEVELOPMENT AND ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF CHACO RUINS AND THE
GREATER LANDSCAPE SURROUNDING
THE CHACO CULTURE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

WHEREAS, U.S. Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich and U.S. Representatives Ben Ray Luján and Deb Haaland (“the Northern New Mexico Congressional Delegation”) introduced the “Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act, S. 1079”, a bill to withdraw the federal lands around Chaco Canyon from further mineral development; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands Stephanie Garcia Richard signed Land Office Executive Order 2019-002, placing a moratorium on new oil and gas development on 72,776 acres in the state trust land in a buffer zone around Chaco Canyon; and

WHEREAS, the greater Chaco Canyon region was the center of a thriving culture one thousand years ago and holds deep cultural significance to the Native Pueblos of New Mexico, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, and the Navajo Nation; and

WHEREAS, the greater Chaco Canyon region houses archeological, sacred and historic resources; and

WHEREAS, the Chaco Culture National Historical Park, a unit of the National Park System and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage Site, is known around the world for its multi-story buildings constructed by the Chacoan people that are still standing, and as a nerve center of a culture that spread throughout and dominated the Four Corners area during the 9th, 10th, and 11th centuries; and

WHEREAS, the landscape around the Chaco Culture National Historical Park includes hundreds of internationally and nationally significant cultural resources, including prehistoric roads, communities and shrines; and

WHEREAS, for over 110 years, the Federal Government has recognized the importance of the area in which the Chacoan people lived and has acted to protect historic and sacred sites in the area, including Chaco Canyon, which was designated as a National Monument in 1907 and as the Chaco Culture National Historical Park in 1980, the Aztec Ruins site, which was designated as a National Monument in 1923, and the 39 Chaco Culture Archeological Protection Sites designated in 1995; and

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WHEREAS, the extensive natural gas development that has occurred in the Greater Chaco region affects the health, safety, economies, and quality of life of local communities; and

WHEREAS, renewed interest in oil exploration and production within the Mancos/Gallup Shale play has increased the potential for significant negative impacts on resources and visitor experiences at the Chaco Culture National Historical Park, as well as additional impacts on local communities in the Greater Chaco region including the Navajo Nation and Pueblos; and

WHEREAS, a mineral withdrawal in the landscape around the Chaco Culture National Historical Park would prevent leasing and development in the immediate area surrounding the Chaco Culture National Historical Park, which would protect resources and visitor experiences at the Chaco Culture National Historical Park; and

WHEREAS, additional studies and protective measures should be undertaken to address health, safety, and environmental impacts on communities and interests of Pueblos, the Navajo Nation and the Jicarilla Apache Nation of the Greater Chaco landscape; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners (Board) is committed to protecting public and sacred lands from exploitation by energy development initiatives; and

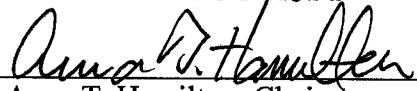
WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that the eight Pueblos within the boundary of Santa Fe County maintain deep connections and have ancestral ties to Chaco Culture National Historic Park and the Greater Chaco landscape.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County, that:

1. The Board supports S. 1079, the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act, and urges the United States Congress to adopt this bill.
2. Directs the County Manager to submit copies of this Resolution to the New Mexico Congressional delegation, the Governor of New Mexico, the New Mexico State delegation, the Navajo Nation President, the Pueblos of New Mexico and Jicarilla Apache Nation.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 28th DAY OF MAY, 2019.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**



Anna T. Hamilton, Chair

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ATTEST:

Geraldine Salazar
Geraldine Salazar
Santa Fe County Clerk

Date: 5-28-2019

Approved as to form:

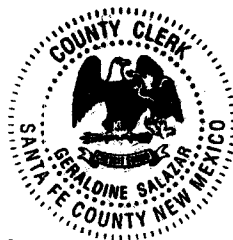
R. Bruce Frederick FOR
R. Bruce Frederick
Santa Fe County Attorney



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
PAGES: 3

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 29TH Day Of May, 2019 at 10:28:09 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **1887336**
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County



Deputy *Estrella Martinez*
Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

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