



# Quay County Government

300 South Third Street, Tucumcari, NM 88401

Post Office Box 1246

Phone: (575)461-2112 Fax: (575) 461-6208

---

The Honorable Martin Heinrich

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan

The Honorable Teresa Leger-Fernandez

The Honorable Melanie Stansbury

The Honorable Gabe Valdez

To the Congressional Delegation:

We have become aware that the Department of Energy is attempting to claim over 500,000 acres of Quay County for their NIETC. (National Interest Electrical Transmission Corridor) It is stated that these corridors are necessary for energy companies to access energy sources and transmission lines.

Quay County has been a pioneer in the field of renewable energy. We are not opposed to transmission lines. One of the first wind farms in the country was built in Quay County in 2002. We currently have three wind farms and a solar farm.

Tucumcari NM, is home to Mesalands Community College, and they have a training program for people to learn to build and service wind generators and solar farms.

We are requesting that the federal government and the Department of Energy follow the guidelines set in place for NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act). We request that each time this project is expanded there be an Environmental Impact Study.

We would like to bring to light that there are 37 Threatened and Endangered Species in Eastern New Mexico, and 10 Critical Habitats. Landowners, farmers and ranchers are required to take these things into account, the DOE is also required to follow the law.

We are requesting hydrologic studies in the approximately 500,000 affected acres in Quay County. We have playa lakes that are not always full of water, but have the potential to create lakes and ponds that are somewhat seasonal.

In light of the fact that Quay County has been the home of Native Americans for thousands of years we are requesting the archeological studies that would ensure compliance with The Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

We are requesting Cooperating Status of the Cultural Properties Rule, and that landowners retain the surface and subsurface rights of their land.

In light of the fact that New Mexico in general, and Quay county in particular have landowners who have successfully worked with power companies and transmission companies, we strongly oppose the US government taking actions to bypass the legal and obviously successful mechanisms that are in place to build and service the wind generators and the transmission infrastructure.

The 150 families whose farms, ranches and homes are in the direct path of this monstrous idea have had no warning or notification that their homes and livelihoods are in jeopardy. It appears that the US government is teaming up with energy companies to simply take whatever they want without due process to the people who have lived and worked this land for generations.

As elected officials of Quay County, we are asking that state and federal legislators do everything possible to ensure that this government overreach does not result in negating the historical rights of Quay County landowners.

Quay County Commissioners

Leri Fusch	Chair	1-27-25
Dallas Darnell		1-27-25
Ben Fortson		1-27-25