

October 10, 2018

The Honorable Senator Tom Udall  
110 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Gila Wild and Scenic Rivers

Dear Senator Udall,

The Town Council of the Town of Silver City has consistently taken actions to protect the Gila River and various watersheds in our region. Therefore, with the consensus of the Town Council, as Mayor, I am asking you to support the introduction of *Wild and Scenic Rivers* legislation to permanently protect the Gila River, San Francisco River, and their main tributaries in the Gila National Forest. This would be the first such designation in southern New Mexico. By designating these rivers and their main tributaries as Wild and Scenic Rivers, those waters will be offered the maximum form of protection.

The Town of Silver City has identified outdoor recreation as a growing focus for economic benefit for our region. We see increased tourism as the first Gateway Community to the Continental Divide National Trail. Our beautiful Gila Wilderness and National Forest, and associated recreation opportunities, are part of the important quality of life that makes our community so beloved by all – visitors, new residents, and those of us who have lived here for a very long time. *Wild and Scenic Rivers* designation would strengthen this economic shift to outdoor recreation.

Speaking with full support of the Town Council of the Town of Silver City, we encourage legislation for Wild and Scenic Rivers for the Gila River, San Francisco River, and main tributaries. With 2018 being the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, legislating and obtaining designation of the Gila and San Francisco and their main tributaries would be a fitting tribute to America's first wilderness river.

Thank you in advance for your leadership and strong records of protecting our National Wilderness and Rivers.

Sincerely,

Ken Ladner  
Mayor, Town of Silver City

October 10, 2018

The Honorable Senator Martin Heinrich  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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