



State of New Mexico
Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

October 25, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Designation of Otero Mesa National Monument

Dear President Obama:

I am writing to ask that you invoke your authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906, 16 U.S.C. §§ 431-433, to proclaim the Otero Mesa National Monument on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management in Otero County, New Mexico.

For nearly a decade, I have advocated protection for this wild Chihuahuan desert grassland ecosystem, which is a vast expanse of federal public lands that not only supports an amazing array of birds and game species, but also safeguards a vital fresh water aquifer. Now is the time to formally recognize the value of this rare but unprotected landscape and protect it for future generations, an important and necessary step that I highlighted in my remarks at the commencement of your America's Great Outdoors initiative and in my letter to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, which is attached.

I, personally, and the State of New Mexico look forward to supporting your establishment of the Otero Mesa National Monument.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Richardson".

Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico

BR/fl

cc: Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior