

December 10, 2020

Senator Tom Udall  
Hart Senate Office Building, 531  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Martin Heinrich  
Hart Senate Office Building, 303  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Udall and Heinrich,

Thank you for introducing the M.H. Dutch Salmon Greater Gila Wild and Scenic River Act, which would protect nearly 450 miles of the Gila and San Francisco Rivers and their tributaries as Wild and Scenic. For nearly a decade, a groundswell of support for these protections has been growing from Tribes, sportsmen and women, veterans, small business owners, faith and civic organizations, local municipalities and governments, and outdoor recreation and conservation organizations. Today, we join them in applauding your leadership on this effort.

At a time when Americans are experiencing vast economic hardship and unprecedented uncertainty from the COVID-19 pandemic, designating these rivers and tributaries as Wild and Scenic will ensure local, rural economies that depend upon time-tested traditions like grazing, ranching, and hunting and fishing can continue. Additionally, it gives us all hope — and an indomitable reminder of the value of our wild places.

The Gila and San Francisco rivers, along with their tributaries, make up one of the largest free-flowing watersheds remaining in the Lower 48 states. Flowing through the nation's first wilderness area, a place of which Aldo Leopold wrote, "Wilderness is the one kind of playground which mankind cannot build to order... I contrived to get the Gila headwaters withdrawn as a wilderness area, to be kept as pack country, free from additional roads, 'forever.'"

These wild and rugged landscapes form the bedrock of our outdoor economy, providing boundless inspiration and giving roots to our American way of life. Simply put, safeguarding our common waters and lands is vital to our economy, health and communities.

Outdoor recreation is big business in New Mexico, generating nearly \$10 billion in consumer spending, roughly \$3 billion in wages and salaries, \$623 million in state and local tax revenues, and directly employing 99,000 people. And it doesn't stop there. Each year, the outdoor recreation industry generates \$887 billion in consumer spending and 7.6 million jobs.

Never has it been more vital for us to come together as a country and work together to protect our communities and wild places for all of us today and for future generations. Thank you for continuing to do what it takes to fight for our shared values — even, and especially when it hasn't been easy. We stand with you and call on the Senate to move this legislation, and for it to quickly become law.

Sincerely,

**The OARS Family of Companies**

Tyler and Clavey Wendt, Owners  
Merlin, Oregon and Angels Camp, California

**Aspen Skiing Company**

Auden Schendler, VP Sustainability  
Aspen, Colorado

**Patagonia**

Hans Cole, Director of Environmental Campaigns  
and Advocacy  
Ventura, California

**Protect Our Winters**

Torrey Udall, Director of Development  
Boulder, Colorado

**REI Co-op**

Taldi Harrison, Government and Community Affairs  
Manager  
Kent, Washington

**Taos Fly Shop**

Nick Streit, Owner  
Taos, New Mexico

**The Reel Life**

Ivan Valdez, Owner  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

**Red River Angler and Sport**

Sloan Covington, Owner  
Red River, New Mexico

**Yakima Products Inc.**

Ryan Martin, CEO  
Beaverton, Oregon

**Alpacka Raft**

Thor and Sarah Tingey, Owners  
Mancos, Colorado

**Buckley Associates**

Lucy Buckley, CEO  
Boulder, Colorado

**LaSportiva**

Jonathan Lantz, President  
Boulder, Colorado

**Sawyer Paddles**

Zac Kauffman, CEO  
Gold Hill, Oregon

**Ruffwear**

Allison Miles, Community and Content Manager  
Bend, Oregon

**Backbone Media**

Penn Newhard, Founder  
Carbondale, Colorado

**Wild Rye**

Cassie Able, Founder  
Ketchum, Idaho

**Justin Balie Photography**

Justin Balie, Owner  
Nehalem, Oregon

**rygr**

Brian Holcombe, Principle  
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**Mountain, Stream, and Trail Adventures, LLC**

Michael T Carney, Co-founder  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

**AIRE, Inc.**

Alan Hamilton, Co-founder  
Bosie, Idaho

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Simon Perkins, President  
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**Badfish SUP**

Mike Harvey, Co-owner  
Salida, Colorado

**Hydro Flask**

Larry Witt, President  
Bend, Oregon

**Klean Kanteen**

Caroleigh Pierce, Nonprofit Outreach Manager  
Chico, California

**Los Rios River Runners**

Francisco Guevara, Owner  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

**Santa Fe Rafting**

Jarrod McClure, Owner  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

**New Mexico River Adventures**

Wendy Gontram, Owner  
Embudo, New Mexico

**New Wave Rafting**

Britt Huggins, Owner  
Embudo, New Mexico

**Uinta Brewing Company**

Jeremy Ragonese, President  
Salt Lake City, Utah

**KEEN**

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**Nite Ize**

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**Far Flung Adventures**

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**Kokapelli Raft Adventures**

Kelly Gossett, Owner  
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**New Mexico River Outfitters Association**

Steve Harris, Public Affairs Director  
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**Under Solen Media**

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**NRS**

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**The Conservation Alliance**

Brady Robinson, Executive Director  
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**Jack's Plastic Welding Inc.**

Errol Baade, CEO  
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**NM Outdoor Recreation Business Alliance**

James Glover, Co-Director  
Farmington, New Mexico