

**Amendment Offered by Rep. Gabe Vasquez (NM-02)**

Amendment Description:

This amendment would allow ranchers to make minor range improvements on their land.

**AMENDMENT**

**OFFERED BY MR. VASQUEZ OF NEW MEXICO**

At the end of section 10105, add the following:

1       (e) RANCHING WITHOUT RED TAPE.—

2               (1) MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS UNDER USFS  
3       GRAZING PERMITS.—

4               (A) MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS BY  
5       PERMITTEES.—Not later than 1 year after the  
6       date of the enactment of this section, the Sec-  
7       retary shall issue regulations allowing a per-  
8       mittee to carry out a minor range improvement  
9       on the lands with respect to which the per-  
10      mittee holds a grazing permit if—

11              (i) the permittee notifies the applica-  
12      ble Forest Service district ranger at least  
13      30 days prior to carrying out such minor  
14      range improvement; and

15              (ii) such applicable district ranger—

16                      (I) approves the minor range im-  
17                      provement; or

18                      (II) does not respond to the  
19                      minor range improvement.

1 (B) RANGE IMPROVEMENTS BY THE SEC-  
2 RETARY.—The Secretary, acting through the  
3 applicable District Ranger, shall—

4 (i) respond to a covered request not  
5 later than 30 days after the date on which  
6 such request is submitted; and

7 (ii) if such response confirms that the  
8 Secretary, acting through the applicable  
9 District Ranger, will carry out the range  
10 improvement requested—

11 (I) notify the district office that  
12 serves the area in which such range  
13 improvement will occur; and

14 (II) expedite the carrying out of  
15 such range improvement using any  
16 available administrative tools or au-  
17 thorities, including categorical exclu-  
18 sions.

19 (C) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

20 (i) CFR TERMS.—The terms “grazing  
21 permit”, “permittee”, and “range improve-  
22 ment” have the meanings given those  
23 terms, respectively, in section 222.1 of title  
24 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or suc-  
25 cessor regulations).

1 (ii) COVERED REQUEST.—The term  
2 “covered request” means a request sub-  
3 mitted by a permittee to the Secretary re-  
4 questing that the Secretary carry out a  
5 range improvement.

6 (iii) MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENT.—  
7 The term “minor range improvement” in-  
8 cludes improvements to existing fences and  
9 fence lines, wells, water pipelines, and  
10 stock tanks.

11 (iv) SECRETARY.—The term “Sec-  
12 retary” means the Secretary of Agri-  
13 culture.

14 (2) MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS UNDER BLM  
15 GRAZING PERMITS.—

16 (A) MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS BY  
17 GRAZING PERMIT HOLDERS.—Not later than 1  
18 year after the date of the enactment of this sec-  
19 tion, the Secretary shall issue regulations allow-  
20 ing a grazing permit or lease holder to carry  
21 out a minor range improvement on the lands  
22 with respect to which the grazing permit or  
23 lease applies if—

24 (i) the grazing permit or lease holder  
25 notifies the applicable Bureau of Land

1 Management district or field manager at  
2 least 30 days prior to carrying out such  
3 minor range improvement; and

4 (ii) such applicable district or field  
5 manager—

6 (I) approves the minor range im-  
7 provement; or

8 (II) does not respond to the  
9 minor range improvement.

10 (B) RANGE IMPROVEMENTS BY THE SEC-  
11 RETARY.—The Secretary, acting through the  
12 applicable State Director of the Bureau of  
13 Land Management, shall—

14 (i) respond to a covered request not  
15 later than 30 days after the date on which  
16 such request is submitted; and

17 (ii) if such response confirms that the  
18 Secretary, acting through the applicable  
19 State Director of the Bureau of Land  
20 Management, will carry out the range im-  
21 provement requested—

22 (I) notify the State office that  
23 serves the area in which such range  
24 improvement will occur; and

1 (II) expedite the carrying out of  
2 such range improvement using any  
3 available administrative tools or au-  
4 thorities, including categorical exclu-  
5 sions.

6 (C) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

7 (i) COVERED REQUEST.—The term  
8 “covered request” means a request sub-  
9 mitted by a grazing permit holder to the  
10 Secretary requesting that the Secretary  
11 carry out a range improvement.

12 (ii) GRAZING PERMIT OR LEASE.—The  
13 term “grazing permit or lease” means a  
14 grazing permit or lease described in section  
15 4130.2 of title 43, Code of Federal Regula-  
16 tions (or success regulations).

17 (iii) MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENT.—  
18 The term “minor range improvement” in-  
19 cludes improvements to existing fences and  
20 fence lines, wells, water pipelines, and  
21 stock tanks.

22 (iv) RANGE IMPROVEMENT.—The  
23 term “range improvement” means a range  
24 improvement carried out pursuant to sub-

1                   part 4120 of title 43, Code of Federal Reg-  
2                   ulations (or successor regulations).

3                   (v) SECRETARY.—The term “Sec-  
4                   retary” means the Secretary of the Inte-  
5                   rior.

