

PERSHING COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



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July 8, 2019

The Honorable Mark Amodei
104 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Amodei:

On behalf of Pershing County, I wish to express our collective gratitude to you for reintroducing the Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act (H.R. 252). Now with the legislation scheduled for a hearing by the Committee on Natural Resources we wish to reiterate our strong and enthusiastic support for this bill. As indicated by our testimony to the Senate Natural Resources Committee on February 7, 2018 (attached), this has the potential for providing a huge jump-start to economic growth in our county while at the same time strengthening protections for wilderness lands and providing long term incentives to mining interests for use of the lands.

As the House considers this bill we have had a number of companies in the high-tech and solar industries express interest in operating in Pershing County, due to proximity to interstate 80, the railroad, natural gas, and high capacity electrical transmission lines. But, one of the biggest hurdles to moving forward for these entities is the so-called checkerboard lands and the difficulty in securing enough contiguous land to make these projects viable. Because the BLM manages the non-private lands in the checkerboard, private industry interest will move quickly elsewhere rather than attempting to navigate the slow and difficult process of federal approvals.

Please do not hesitate to call upon me and my fellow commissioners if there is anything else we can do to make this a legislative success.

Sincerely,

PERSHING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. McDougal", is written over the printed name.

Robert McDougal, County Commissioner, Seat A

Cc: Congresswoman Dina Titus
Congresswoman Susie Lee
Congressman Steven Horsford