



October 30, 2019

To the Members of New Mexico's Congressional Delegation:

On October 30th, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act of 2019, a historic step in the years-long effort to secure lasting protection for Chaco Canyon. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in New Mexico and beyond, we thank you for your leadership and steadfast commitment to protecting Chaco.

Many centuries ago, the ancestors of modern-day Tribes built the towering structures that still stand in Chaco Canyon, along with a remarkable network of roads that link the canyon to outlying communities. We honor their magnificent accomplishments by protecting and treating these sacred places with respect.

New oil and gas drilling would damage these sacred lands and their fragile cultural resources, threatening to transform this area forever, polluting the air we breathe, and ruining the night skies with increased flaring.

But with the passage of this bill, we have renewed hope. We respectfully urge the U.S. Senate to follow suit and pass the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Archaeology Southwest

Conservation Voters New Mexico

National Parks Conservation Association

National Trust for Historic Preservation

New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light

New Mexico Wild

New Mexico Wildlife Federation

ProgressNow New Mexico

The Wilderness Society