

New Mexico Conference of Churches
seving the ecumenical ministries of more than 600,000 New Mexicans



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

May 22, 2014

Dear President Obama,

As the ecumenical body in New Mexico, representing eight different Christian denominations, we would like to thank you for designating the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. God calls us to be stewards of the land that was gifted to us by God, and by protecting this piece of Creation we are fulfilling that vocation.

We applaud the process that your Administration has followed, which valued input from the local community and diverse constituents. We are truly blessed with this wonderful terrain in our backyard and now we can be sure that future generations will have access to the same beautiful area.

The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks region is a majestic embodiment of God's power, but it deserved protection for reasons beyond its beauty. This area tells the stories of many Americans and we are appreciative that these artifacts and histories will be preserved. This designation also offers opportunities for business and economic growth, which will be a blessing to southern New Mexico.

We invite you to come out to visit the Organ Mountains and see for yourself why this is called the Land of Enchantment. Thank you again for your stewardship.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. Donna L. McNiel

336 N Camino del Pueblo PO Box 606 Berrillio, New Mexico 87004 505-867-2956 fax 505-867-6379 Email nmchurches@gmail.com

membership

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Community of Christ, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Roman Catholic Church, United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church