



April 27, 2016

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

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and our 1,100 members, I am writing to ask that you use your authority under the 1906 Antiquities Act to protect Castner Range (Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas) as a National Monument which honors our region's cultural, historical, scientific and environmental character and which preserves some truly beautiful land.

Castner Range is one of the most significant mountain-and-alluvial-fan landscapes in the United States. A National Monument designation would offer protection from development for the more than 30 cultural sites located on the 7,081 acres of exclusively public lands that are currently managed by the Department of Defense/Department of the Army, all of which have been federal property since 1939. (They'd remain federal property if preserved as a National Monument.) Furthermore, National Monument designation could provide recreation for the community, including benefits to public health, education, natural resource management, El Paso's economy and the preservation of the breathtaking views that define the Franklin Mountains of El Paso and the U.S.-Mexico border region. By protecting Castner Range, your legislation will help preserve cherished attributes such as the known prehistoric habitation that began 14,000 years ago and the biological and physical landscapes that are unique to the greater El Paso area. Your designation of a Castner Range National Monument would also safeguard a historic American area that served from 1926-1966 as part of a major U.S. military training facility. (It's thanks to the stewardship of El Paso's Fort Bliss Army Base that the Range has been conserved to date.) In addition, preserving Castner Range will conserve land now abutting three El Paso neighborhoods and a popular commercial district. Your action will ensure that this magnificent landscape, which encompasses the smallest land possible for protection, remains of critical importance to our region for generations of Americans to come.

In sum, I ask that you please use your authority to draft legislation that designates Castner Range as a National Monument and which leaves a legacy that protects the past and the future of this national treasure forever.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Ramos-Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Cindy Ramos-Davidson
Chief Executive Officer