



Graham County
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1111 Thatcher Boulevard • Safford, Arizona 85546
Phone: (928) 428-2511 or 1-888-837-1841 • FAX: (928) 428-0744
E-Mail: Info@graham-chamber.com

August 7, 2012

Secretary Ken Salazar
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Re: SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

Dear Secretary Salazar:

I'm writing to express my support for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project (SunZia). In addition to strengthening our infrastructure and improving the reliability of the Arizona and western electrical grid systems, SunZia will create jobs and cultivate economic development in Arizona.

According to the University of Arizona, in addition to permanent job creation and new tax revenue, SunZia will create over 2,000 jobs during a four-year construction period. More significantly, the study estimates that Arizona could see up to 16,000 construction jobs from renewable energy projects enabled by access to the electrical grid through SunZia's planned substations.

As you know, the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been conducting a thorough environmental review of SunZia for the past three years under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and has received extensive input from numerous stakeholders in central and southern Arizona.

I urge BLM to conclude its environmental review of SunZia and issue a Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision before the end of 2012 in order for SunZia to proceed to the state and local permitting processes.

With your support, we can expand renewable energy production in the southwest and help generate the jobs and growth necessary for an economic recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie Freestone".

Marie Freestone
President, Graham County Chamber of Commerce

*Life the way it
ought to be...*