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State of New Mexico
County of Otero

October 16, 2006

Mark E. Fesmire, Chair
(And Members of the Oil Conservation Commission)
Oil Conservation Division
1220 S. St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

RE: Otero Mesa/Natural Gas Drilling Application

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

It has come to our attention that you will be considering an application for natural gas drilling on Otero Mesa, with a requested exemption from Rule 21 to allow open-pit disposal of residuals from the drilling. Otero County strongly opposes this requested exemption for the following reasons:

- Otero Mesa is a unique and important ecological treasure with a fragile ecosystem balance. It is our belief that an open-pit would disturb that balance.
- The local quality of life and economic stability on the Otero Mesa depend on a healthy livestock industry that could be harmed by the allowance of the open-pit.
- Open-pit residual disposal has the potential to produce contaminants to the surface environment and the water aquifer. The quantity and quality of the water aquifer under Otero Mesa is yet unknown. We are not willing, on behalf of our children and grandchildren, to risk this potential water source.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and hope that you will deny this and any permit that allows "open-pit" drilling.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Moore".
Doug Moore
Chairman Otero County Commission