



October 7, 2025

To: Doña Ana County Board of County Commissioners

Honorable Commissioners,

As fellow elected officials in Doña Ana County, we share the goal of creating jobs and economic development in Doña Ana County. We also want to ensure we do so in an environmentally friendly way that protects citizens. To this end, we wanted to write to express our concerns with several issues related to Project Jupiter. In our opinion serious questions remain regarding power generation emissions, water usage, and utility rates that we encourage be addressed prior to the issuance of economic incentives and industrial revenue bonds (IRB's).

To date, neither the community, nor the county that we are aware of, has been provided with a power generation plan. Given the tremendous amount of power needed to operate this facility, it is essential that the county and citizens conduct meaningful due diligence to evaluate this power generation plan to ensure all appropriate efforts have been made to minimize negative impacts to air quality and the climate. This should be done prior to approval of any economic incentives or issuance of industrial revenue bonds (IRB's).

Furthermore, we are very concerned over the long-term financial exposure residents of Doña Ana County potentially face over having their electric rates increased by El Paso Electric, should the utility choose to purchase power from Project Jupiter. New Mexico's recently enacted micro grid law passed in the 2025 legislative session clearly allows for utilities to seek higher rates should they purchase power from a microgrid. Despite the public commitment from Project Jupiter and its supporters that ratepayers would not be impacted by the costs of the new Project Jupiter microgrid, the lack of any written agreement between Doña Ana County, Project Jupiter, and El Paso Electric is a significant deficiency that should be addressed. Doña Ana County residents should not be asked to subsidize the costs of Project Jupiter's microgrid, now and in the future.

Finally, we would like more transparency and understanding of the total water usage needs from Project Jupiter, as well as greater disclosure from the Project and County and how it will utilize and improve water infrastructure in Doña Ana County to support this project. To answer these questions, it's essential to understand the power generation strategy for Project Jupiter, and corresponding water needs.

We invite the County and Project Jupiter to meet as soon as possible to discuss these issues prior to the issuance of any economic incentives and IRB's.

Thank you.

Senator Jeff Steinborn
Senator Bill Soules
Senator Carrie Hamblen
Representative Micaela Cadena
Representative Ray Lara
Representative Joanne Ferrary
Representative Angelica Rubio
Representative Sarah Silva