Rio Grande Soaring Association, Inc.

www.RGSA.info

**8105 Airport Road**

**Santa Teresa, NM 88008**

**(915) 726-2698**

July 13, 2012

Mayor Ken Miyagishima

PO Box 20000

Las Cruces, NM 88004

Dear Mayor Miyagishima:

We are an association of soaring pilots based in the southwestern United States. For decades, we have flown non-powered ultralight aircraft in the mountains and deserts of this region.

Included in our launch sites are those in the East Potrillo Mountains and Mt. Riley which are part of the area being considered for a National Monument. If this area in Dona Ana County becomes a National Monument, it will drastically affect our access to launch sites there. We will no longer have any practical way to fly in these mountains.

As a group, we are among the greatest users of the Mt. Riley area. Our environmental “footprint” is less than any other as we do not camp or bring in food and our journey is “one-way”. Over the years, we have done all that we can to preserve the beauty of our launch sites, including carrying out trash and debris left by the public.

In any case, we are opposed to this area of Dona Ana County becoming a National Monument. At the least, can the City recommend that we be able to retain access to our launch sites? It would only be reasonable.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Had Robinson, Secretary

Rio Grande Soaring Association