



UNITED STATES HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING ASSOCIATION, Inc.

2549 Lewis Road
Sebastopol, CA 95472
Feb 19, 2010

Honorable Senator Bingaman,

Thank you for preserving New Mexico's scenic desert areas with S. 1689

Mt Riley, part of the greater Potrillo Mountain area, has been a launch site for hang gliders and paragliders for more than 30 years.

Hang gliding and paragliding offer unique recreational opportunities with very small environmental impacts. Their only needs are a way to get to the top of the mountain and a flat, clear area to land in.

The United States Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association supports its members and chapters who open and maintain flying sites in a responsible manner.

The USHPA Site Committee supports The Rio Grande Soaring Association and Hadley Robinson in their desire to retain access to the western base of Mt Riley, as described in their

Proposed Modification of S. 1689 to Preserve Existing Access to the Western Base of Mt. Riley.

A similar wilderness bill in California, SB 3069 / HR 6156, by Senator Boxer and Representative McKeon, established wilderness in California's Owens Valley, while retaining access to several historic hang glider and paraglider launches, specifically, Gunter, Paiute, Mt Tom, McGee, and Walt's Point, and a landing area at Gunter.

Thank you for considering the Rio Grande Soaring Association's request for continued access to Mt Riley. The USHPA Site Committee recommends them, supports their request, and thanks you for your consideration.

Jon James, Chair

USHPA Site Committee