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Comments: Dear Director, Mining and Minerals Division,

I strongly oppose approval of the Roca Honda Uranium Mine because the people who live in and around this region have already paid too high a price for uranium extraction. Families in the Grants Mineral Belt and surrounding Indigenous, downwind, and downstream communities continue to live with the contamination, health burdens, and broken promises left behind by earlier mining. No agency should ask these communities to bear another round of risk so that a private company can profit from a landscape that is considered sacred and already overburdened.

The proposed mine threatens Mount Taylor, a sacred living landscape for multiple Indigenous Nations. Mount Taylor is not simply a backdrop or a viewshed to be managed. Any review that treats harm to this place as minor, mitigable, or merely visual would fail to understand what is at stake for the communities who have protected this mountain for generations. Tribes deserve meaningful consultation and a decision-making process that does not repeat the same pattern of environmental injustice that has defined uranium mining in New Mexico for generations.

Water is precious, and impacts to water are especially alarming. Recent reporting on the revised plan states that the project would require major dewatering and discharge of treated groundwater to the Rio San Jose, raising serious concerns in a drought-stressed region. Communities should not have to wonder whether another uranium project will drain aquifers, affect springs, or leave future generations with less safe water and more contamination to manage.

The Forest Service must also fully address the cumulative impact of renewed uranium mining within an existing abandoned uranium mining area. For communities that have already lived through the legacy of uranium contamination, these are not abstract concerns.