

Eva Gonzales

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter. Growing up in southern Doña Ana County, I saw firsthand how common it is for families in communities like Santa Teresa, Sunland Park, Chaparral, Vado, Berino, and Anthony to commute to Las Cruces or El Paso for work. My family was no exception. Even though we lived in Santa Teresa, I spent years traveling to school in communities that better aligned with my mother's work schedule because so many opportunities were located outside our immediate area. That experience showed me how limited local job opportunities can be and why projects that create careers close to home matter so much. I am excited about the opportunities Project Jupiter could bring to our region, especially for young people who want to stay in southern New Mexico and build their futures here. I also appreciate that the developers listened to community concerns and made significant changes by moving to fuel cell technology. While every major project involves tradeoffs, it is important that the voices of those who live closest to the project are heard. Many local residents understand both the challenges and opportunities facing our communities, and I believe Project Jupiter represents an important investment in the future of southern Doña Ana County.