

## Lia Victoria Hernandez

I grew up in Tucson, constantly hearing about the importance of our water and our duty to care for our land. In order to understand both, one must be aware that our natural world does not care for state borders; that what happens in one state will affect another. As a proud citizen of Arizona, I am disgusted by the greed of those who have no understanding of the importance of our water and land. This power plant will harm countless lives, great and small, for what? A measly profit? National security? Or some other buzz word to distract from the destruction? I can't help but scoff. How can one secure a nation that they are killing from the inside? Bloom Energy has a history of illegally dumping hazardous waste- they must never qualify for a permit. What of the people most affected by this, are their voices to be silenced? The citizens of Santa Teresa deserve to have their concerns heard and heeded, both in English and Spanish, in accordance with our values as Americans. This plant is NOT needed, much less wanted. Our one-of-a-kind desert and all those who inhabit it deserve much better than this.

The public should be given an additional 60 days to review and comment on the air quality permit so community members can participate equitably.

The air quality permit application should be denied outright given Bloom Energy's history of illegal dumping hazardous waste. Approving this permit would be government-sponsored environmental racism directed at residents of Doña Ana County.

If the permit is not denied outright, a public hearing needs to be held in Santa Teresa, in both English and Spanish, with an option to participate virtually.