

Tiffany Morrow

I am writing to formally oppose the approval of Project Jupiter due to profound concerns regarding procedural corruption, severe environmental risks, and the existential threat this project poses to local farmers.

The approval process has been marred by a violation of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, where critical decisions were made in an illegal closed session, denying the public their right to transparency. Furthermore, the existence of a secret Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Governor months before the public vote, alongside an NDA forcing a state university to suppress public records requests, demonstrates a systematic effort to bypass democratic oversight and hide the true terms of this deal from the citizens of Doña Ana County.

Environmentally, the project has engaged in deceptive reporting with devastating consequences for our agricultural community. While developers claimed a water usage of 20,000 gallons per day, state engineers confirm the actual demand is closer to 1 million gallons per day. In a region already facing aquifer depletion, this massive extraction will directly compete with local farmers for scarce water resources, threatening to dry up wells, reduce crop yields, and jeopardize the livelihoods of the families who have sustained Doña Ana County's agriculture for generations. This is not just an industrial project; it is a direct threat to our food security and rural economy.

Additionally, the strategy of filing air permits just below the "major source" threshold to avoid comprehensive environmental review is a clear attempt to evade regulatory safeguards regarding air quality and emissions.

I urge the commission to reject this approval or pause all proceedings until the ongoing lawsuits are resolved, the water usage is independently verified and capped to protect local agriculture, and all permits are issued through a fully transparent, legal process. We cannot allow a \$165 billion project to proceed on the foundation of secrecy, environmental deception, and the sacrifice of our local farming community.