



**BACKCOUNTRY  
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**  
NEW MEXICO

The Honorable Crystal Brantley  
New Mexico State Senate

**Subject: Support for SB 291 – Strengthening Conservation Law Enforcement**

Dear Senator Brantley,

On behalf of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) and as an advocate for fair chase hunting, responsible angling, and public land access, I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 291. While our organization's primary mission revolves around the conservation, access, and responsible management of New Mexico's fish and wildlife, we also recognize that strong enforcement is a critical pillar in upholding these values.

The expansion of conservation officers' authority under SB 291 represents a meaningful step toward ensuring that our state's game laws are effectively enforced, particularly in the remote areas where backcountry hunters and anglers often find themselves. Many of us pursue our passion deep in the woods, along winding rivers, and across the open country. These landscapes, while breathtaking, can also be vulnerable to illegal poaching, trespassing, and other unlawful activities that threaten the integrity of our public lands and wildlife resources.

By broadening the enforcement capabilities of conservation officers—including their ability to uphold criminal, motor vehicle, and boating laws—SB 291 enhances their ability to protect both sportsmen and wildlife alike. Game wardens play an essential role in not only ensuring fair and legal harvests but also in maintaining the safety and security of those who recreate in these wild places. With increased authority, they can more effectively deter illegal activity, respond to incidents, and hold violators accountable, ultimately reinforcing the ethical hunting and fishing principles that BHA stands for.

Thank you for your leadership in supporting New Mexico's outdoor heritage. We appreciate your commitment to making our state a better place for hunters, anglers, and all who cherish its wild spaces. We look forward to working alongside you to ensure that our game laws are not only fair but also effectively enforced.

Sincerely,

**Kyle S. Klain**

NM BHA - Policy Chair

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