

September 19, 2013

The Honorable Frank Kendall
Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Undersecretary Kendall:

Thank you for your time last week to discuss the SunZia electricity transmission project in New Mexico.

Per our conversation, I would like to formally request that the Department of Defense (DOD) utilize its research and development laboratory, MIT Lincoln Laboratory, to look at the concerns raised by White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) and examine potential changes to test protocols that would allow DOD to adapt to the presence of a new transmission line.

As you know, Lincoln Laboratory has a long history of creating innovative solutions to complex problems involving our nation's radar systems and air and missile defense technology. As a DOD federally funded research and development center with the necessary expertise, access to classified information, and knowledge of the radar systems in question, Lincoln Laboratory is well suited to examine the complex testing profiles for missions at WSMR and propose mitigation measures to allow missions to continue and allow for the construction of the transmission line.

As federal agencies continue to examine the SunZia transmission line, I am hopeful a resolution can be reached that allows the important missions at WSMR to continue and the project to proceed without additional delay.

Sincerely,



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator