From: Heart of the Gila Heart of the Gila

To: Mason, Wendy, EMNRD

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Rule Change to NM State Endangered Plant Law

**Date:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:28:57 PM

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## To EMDRNM,

I am writing to state my support for the Rule Change to the NM State Endangered Plant Law to strengthen the law and give native and endangered plants similar protections afforded to animals.

The continued decline of the plants listed on the NM State endangered plant list over the past several decades has shown that we need stronger laws and improved conservation efforts and funding for those efforts.

Heart of the Gila organization, located in Gila Hot Springs, interacts with hundreds of New Mexican's each year who value New Mexico's wildlife, including the flora. We represent the interests of many of those participants who support stronger state policies to protect rare and endangered plants.

Thank you,

Patrice Mutchnick Director, Heart of the Gila