Good morning and greetings,

THANK YOU for considering comments regarding the amendment. I have had the unique opportunity to know and work with State Botanist Daniela Roth in her professional capacity in efforts to preserve the state-listed endangered Santa Fe Cholla. [link]

Ms. Roth is exceptional in her relentless dedication and service. The "mission" to preserve the Santa Fe Cholla started 20 years ago due to the rapid disappearance and the near total unawareness, often abusive and threatening attitudes present, and the lack of recognition and protective measures.

At that time David J. Ferguson, Curator Rio Grande Botanic Garden, Albuquerque, NM, noted that if the few surviving Santa Fe Cholla at Fort Marcy Park died that might be the end of the unique plant. The future of the Santa Fe Cholla was guaranteed by the efforts of a few concerned citizens. The undertaking was its own reward but it is not a viable or desirable process. A process that cannot be counted upon to save other species.

The amendment changes the current threatening environment and will help ensure that these precious plants are protected. It is vitally important that adequate protective measures are taken to ensure the Santa Fe Cholla becomes permanent.

I have been involved for years with advancing the recognition, informed understanding, and protective measures for other species. The current amendment extends the protections to the Santa Fe Cholla. Please consider this amendment for your committee's consideration.

The opportunity to advance protections for all species will help ensure that our natural environment and its many unique species are preserved for future generations. The extended protections will be a gift and a profound legacy to be enjoyed by future generations.

We know extinctions to be irreversible. Please consider continuing to advance a progressive agenda for our natural environment and its many unique species.

My very best wishes,

Joe Newman
(Cactus Rescue Project, Project Coyote, TrapFree New Mexico, Snake Responders)

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