

## May 5, 2026 Call to the Public

Good evening, supervisors. I am Mark Seipke, from Greer. I am here to present a letter **for the record** from the White Mountain Save Open Spaces Core Group, representing over 1200 Apache County residents. The letter will show:

Apache County considers County operations and information to be confidential. So, if the public needs County information, a Public Records Request is required.

County residents were denied access to the draft renewable energy Ordinance for 9 months. But a citizen's public records request found – during that same time period - over 200 pages of emails between the County and Industry reps discussing the draft Ordinance. That is inappropriate disclosure of confidential County information.

The first draft Ordinance was shared with renewable energy companies – even prior to its presentation to the P&Z Commission on May 1, 2025 – and the County misled the Commission by incorporating Industry comments - as staff recommendations - in their staff presentations.

The County failed to follow specific Commission direction to put the “Preferred Energy Areas” Plan Amendment on the agenda for public hearing, and intentionally slowed the Ordinance update to benefit out of state, foreign-owned Industry developers.

The County now posts draft Ordinance revisions online one day before scheduled P&Z meetings – not enough time to review changes to the complex 20+ page document. This forces the Commission to focus only on Ordinance details, not on the big picture.

**We want to empower the Commission to take a leadership role.** It is the **Commission's job** to make Ordinance recommendations to the Board.

We request the County correct this process immediately.

We recommend the County:

- Form a subcommittee of Commissioners and knowledgeable County residents to clarify the County's objectives for the Ordinance revisions, and make recommendations to the Commission to help meet those objectives
- Post revised drafts and full staff reports on the County website one week prior to P&Z meetings to allow time for thorough review
- Establish a transparent public comment review process to analyze and consider comments from County residents and Industry reps together, by subject, and
- Consider a moratorium on accepting renewable energy applications until the revised Ordinance is ratified by the County Board of Supervisors.

**Please enter this letter in the official County record.** Thank you. [Then hand out letters to Supervisors, beginning with the Chair, and to Ryan Patterson, and the WMI reporter]