



**CHRIS STANEK**  
MAYOR  
VILLAGE OF TAOS SKI VALLEY

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7 Firehouse Road  
Post Office Box 100  
Taos Ski Valley  
New Mexico 87525

(575) 776-8220

E-mail: [vtsv@vtsv.org](mailto:vtsv@vtsv.org)  
Web Site: [vtsv.org](http://vtsv.org)

**MAYOR: Christopher Stanek**

**COUNCIL:**  
Henry Caldwell  
Douglas Turner  
J. Christopher Stagg  
Thomas P. Wittman

**VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:**  
Rick Bellis

**CLERK:**  
Marlene Salazar, Acting

Honorable Governor Lujan Grisham, Senator Gonzales, and Representative Ortiz:

It is with great enthusiasm that the Village of Taos Ski Valley presents this letter in full support of the *Taos Clean Spaces, Strong Communities* proposal, which seeks funding, outside of capital outlay, from the State of New Mexico to implement and operate a comprehensive waste diversion and trash reduction program. This initiative is vital for the Taos region and aligns with the State's campaign of *Breaking Bad Habits* by promoting sustainable practices and environmental responsibility at the local level.

The collaborative partnership that has been formed to drive this program includes key community stakeholders, such as the communities that comprise the Taos Regional Landfill Board (Town of Taos, Taos County, Village of Questa, Village of Taos Ski Valley, Red River, and Eagle Nest), Taos Community Foundation, Taos Ski Valley, Inc., and Taos Pueblo.

By joining forces, these organizations bring a wealth of local expertise and commitment to waste diversion, recycling, and composting initiatives, ensuring that the program will be both effective and sustainable. The proposal will clean up the region, reduce the environmental impact of waste on our land and water, and foster a culture of responsible stewardship.

This program directly addresses the growing need for waste management solutions and provides a forward-thinking approach to reducing landfill waste through composting and diversion. It builds upon and strengthens existing efforts within the region, expanding services and encouraging community participation across a diverse and geographically unique area.

The initiative will also create important educational opportunities, empowering residents and businesses to break old habits and adopt more sustainable practices for waste reduction.

We are confident that the *Taos Clean Spaces, Strong Communities* program will significantly improve the quality of life for all those living in and around the Taos region. It represents an excellent example of how private-public partnerships can come together to address pressing environmental challenges.

Supporting this proposal will not only enhance local waste management efforts but also further New Mexico's broader environmental goals, including promoting sustainability and reducing the state's carbon footprint.

Thank you for considering this critical proposal. We strongly urge you to approve the requested funding to ensure the success of this transformative initiative for the Taos region and its communities, which can serve as a model for the rest of the state.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information or support regarding this important project.

Sincerely,

Chris Stanek, Mayor

cc: Village Council  
Taos Regional Landfill Board