

**NORTHERN PUEBLOS TRIBUTARY WATER RIGHTS ASSOCIATION**  
**2401 12<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104**  
**P.O. Box 27190, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125**

Pueblo of Nambé  
Pueblo of Tesuque  
Pueblo of Pojoaque  
Pueblo de San Ildefonso

Phillip Perez, Chairman, Nambé Pueblo  
Ryan Swazo-Hinds, Vice-Chairman, Tesuque Pueblo  
Jeff Montoya, Secretary, Pojoaque Pueblo

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July 16, 2024

Hon. Cliff Bentz, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Jared Huffman, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1332 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support of the Pueblo of Nambé, Pueblo of Pojoaque, Pueblo de San Ildefonso and Pueblo of Tesuque for H.R. 6599

Dear Representative Bentz and Representative Huffman:

The Pueblo of Nambé, the Pueblo of Pojoaque, the Pueblo de San Ildefonso, and the Pueblo of Tesuque (collectively “Pueblos”), as the four members of the Northern Pueblos Tributary Water Rights Association, write this letter in support of the bill sponsored and introduced by Representative Leger-Fernández of the New Mexico delegation, H.R. 6599, to restore interest on the *Aamodt* Settlement Pueblos’ Fund established by section 617(c)(1)(B) of the *Aamodt* Settlement Act, Pub. L. No. 111-291. The Pueblos herein state their support for the bill.

Section 617(c)(1)(B) of the *Aamodt* Settlement Pueblos’ Fund authorized the appropriation of \$37.5 million “to assist the Pueblos in paying the Pueblos’ share of the cost of operating, maintaining, and replacing the Pueblo Water Facilities and Regional Water System.” The *Aamodt* Settlement Act appropriated an additional \$15 million for the Pueblos, for a total of fund amount of \$52.5 million. The authorized funds are for the Pueblos only, for operation and maintenance expenses related to the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System, the critical infrastructure necessary to effectuate the *Aamodt* settlement. Unlike other Indian water rights settlements, the *Aamodt* Settlement Act did not provide that the funds authorized in section 617 could be invested between the authorization date and the settlement enforcement date, which was

September 15, 2017. As a result, the Pueblos' funds sat for a period of 81 months, uninvested, without earning any interest.

H.R. 6599 will restore interest for that 81-month period so that the Pueblos' settlement will be treated equally to other Indian water rights settlements whose funds Congress allowed to be invested. The Pueblos will, as a result of the bill, receive approximately \$4.3 million which will be added to the operation, maintenance and replacement fund shared by the Pueblos. The restored funds will bring the Pueblos into parity with other Indian tribes who have settled their water rights and invested the funds appropriated to them by Congress. Given the expectation of increasing costs to the Pueblos relating to operation, maintenance and replacement of the Regional Water System, the addition of \$4.3 million in forgone earned interest will be critically important.

The Pueblos wish to express their appreciation your actions to ensure that the Pueblos are treated on equal footing with other Indian tribes in this country. We thank you for undertaking this important rectification of the *Aamodt* Settlement Act.

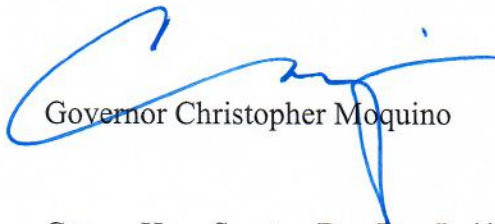
Sincerely,



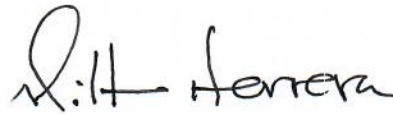
Governor Nathaniel S. Porter



Governor Jenelle Roybal



Governor Christopher Moquino



Governor Milton Herrera

Cc: Hon. Senator Ben Ray Luján, Hon. Senator Martin Heinrich, Hon. Representative Teresa Leger Fernández, Hon. Secretary Deb Haaland