



Matthew B. Geisel
City Manager

October 17, 2023

Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández
1510 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
<https://fernandez.house.gov/>

RE: Support for H.R.1304/S. 595, the Pueblos of Jemez and Zia Water Rights Settlement Act of 2022 (Title II)

Dear Congresswoman Leger Fernández:

The City of Rio Rancho appreciates the opportunity to thank you for sponsoring H.R. 1304 that includes the Pueblos of Jemez and Zia Water Rights Settlement Act of 2022, and for your continued support of this important legislation. The Bill provides for Congressional approval of the Settlement Agreement for the determination of the water rights of the Pueblos of Jemez and Zia and provides multiple benefits for the region and area water users including the City of Rio Rancho. The City approved and is a signatory to the Settlement Agreement and wholeheartedly supports full approval of legislation by Congress to allow the settlement to move forward. The settlement resolves the Pueblos' water claims concluding longstanding litigation over those claims; protects the City's essential water rights for municipal purposes; and provides a collaborative basis to manage the vital and shared water resources of the Jemez Basin for all water users going forward.

We thank you for your representation of the City's interests and for your efforts to obtain Congressional approval of the Pueblos of Jemez and Zia Water Rights Settlement Act of 2022. We would welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have. You can contact us through our legal counsel copied on this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew B. Geisel', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Matthew Geisel
City Manager

Cc:

James Green, james.green@mail.house.gov
Matt Miller, matt.miller2@mail.house.gov
Derrick Toledo, derrick.toledo@mail.house.gov
Lauren Vernon, lauren.vernon@mail.house.gov
Austin Yager, Austin.Yager@mail.house.gov
Adeline DeYoung, Adeline.DeYoung@mail.house.gov
Alanna Purdy Montesinos, Alanna_PurdyMontesinos@lujan.senate.gov
Levi Patterson, Levi_Patterson@lujan.senate.gov
Maya Hermann Maya, Hermann@heinrich.senate.gov
Maria O'Brien, mobrien@modrall.com