



NEW MEXICO FARM & LIVESTOCK BUREAU

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September 25, 2007

Congressman Steve Pearce
1408 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pearce:

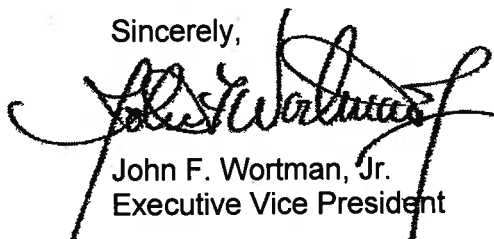
We are very concerned about the *proposed* Navajo Water Rights Settlement that will soon come before you for approval and funding. Our first concern is that this draft settlement is not a product of thorough review of potential impact to New Mexico. Secondly, we are quite concerned about the process used in its development, particularly the lack of involvement by *all* the water rights owners that will be directly affected. We request you undertake a more thorough review of the terms of the proposed settlement and ask for comments from the water users on the San Juan before you make a final decision about this plan.

The San Juan River contains as much as 60% of the surface waters of New Mexico. This proposed settlement is clearly critical to our state, and will have far reaching impacts, both to our water supply and in setting precedent. The magnitude of this draft settlement makes it of utmost importance to carefully consider all impacts, now and into the future, including the potential export of our most precious resource. We have serious concerns that, if approved, this proposal will not enhance the use of water in New Mexico, nor will it lead to any rural development.

Again, we strongly urge you to take action to slow this approval process; more closely consider the facts of the proposal, its long term impacts, and the precedent it sets both legally and in process. Please give thoughtful consideration to the input from the water rights owners and users that were excluded in the development of this draft plan.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,



John F. Wortman, Jr.
Executive Vice President

cc: Interim Water & Natural Resources Committee