



State of New Mexico  
House of Representatives  
Santa Fe

J. Whipple  
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**IRVIN HARRISON**  
D-McKinley & San Juan Counties  
District 5

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January 14, 2004

CHAIRMAN:  
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COMMITTEES:  
Labor & Human Resources  
Taxation & Revenue

Mr. John Whipple  
NM Interstate Stream Commission  
Post Office Box 25102  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102

Dear Mr. Whipple:

I represent fourteen Navajo Nation Chapters in the San Juan River Basin and my District also covers the east side of the City of Gallup. I fully support the proposed Navajo Nation San Juan River water rights settlement as set forth in the *December 5, 2003 Discussion Draft - Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement*.

The City of Gallup obtains its water from some of the deepest wells in the United States. It is projected that the City can "mine" its water from these deep wells for about ten more years. Gallup's predicament shows that communities in Northwest New Mexico cannot depend on groundwater for a sustainable water supply. Navajo Chapters, Water and Sanitation Districts, and Mutual Domestic Water Users, around Gallup are tapping the same aquifers which do not have a significant recharge.

The proposed settlement is imperative if we are going to have adequate water for the growth and development of our communities.

Please keep in mind that over thirty percent of Gallup residents are Navajo. Therefore I support any assistance which the City of Gallup may require to participate in the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project which is a major component of the proposed settlement.

I thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Irvin Harrison

Cc: John Leeper, Director  
Navajo Nation Dept. of Water Resources