[Insert Date]

[Insert Your Name]

[Insert Your Address]

The Honorable [Insert Full Name of Senator]

[Insert Room #] [Insert Building Name] Senate Office Building

United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator [Insert Last Name]:

OR

The Honorable [Insert Full Name of Representative]

[Insert Room #] [Insert Building Name] House Office Building

United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative [Insert Last Name]:

My name is [Insert Your Name], and I reside in your district. I’m writing to urge you to support a historic water rights bill, [Insert S. 4633 for Senate letter/Insert H.R. 8940 for House letter].

As you may know, the historic Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024 settles the water rights claims in the Colorado River for three tribes in Arizona: the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe.   The settlement not only replaces conflict over scarce water resources with cooperation, but it will also provide 5 billion dollars in funding to the Tribes so that they will be able to deliver safe and reliable drinking water to tens of thousands of people. This settlement is vital to the Navajo people because:

* Roughly a third of the Navajo Nation households lack running water.
* The average cost for Navajos to haul water to their homes, ranches, and sheep camps is $133 per thousand gallons. That is roughly 70 times the cost paid by other water users in Arizona. Without the settlement, thousands of Navajos will continue to haul water an average of more than 30 miles round trip on unpaved, wash-board, and often muddy dirt roads to meet their daily water demands.
* The settlement provides certainty on the Colorado River to the benefit of all the 39 settling parties.

I personally know many people in my community who will benefit from the water settlement to maintain a permanent homeland for the three settling Tribes. And Arizona will benefit from the certainty over water allocations and the economic development made possible by settlement-funded water infrastructure.

[We recommend you add personal comments like, I haul water or our community ground water is contaminated, etc. in order to emphasize with the Senator/Representative how much you care about this settlement.]

In Navajo, *Tó éí iiná até*,withwater,there islife. I hope you will do everything you can to support [S. 4633 or H.R. 8940] and get it through Congress this session. This is critical to ensuring continued and increased vitality for the Navajo Nation, the Navajo people, and all of the Tribes and people in the Colorado River Basin who will benefit from this historic settlement. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me if you would like to discuss this further with me.

Respectfully,

[Insert Your Name] [Insert Your Title if applicable] [Insert Your Email] [Insert Your Phone Number]

[Insert Your Address]

[Insert Date]

[Insert Your Name]

[Insert Your Address]

The Honorable [Insert Full Name of Senator]

[Insert Room #] [Insert Building Name] Senate Office Building

United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator [Insert Last Name]:

OR

The Honorable [Insert Full Name of Representative]

[Insert Room #] [Insert Building Name] House Office Building

United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative [Insert Last Name]:

My name is [Insert Your Name], and I reside in your district. I’m writing to urge you to support an important bill to ensure implementation of a water rights settlement for the Navajo Nation: [Insert S. 1898 for Senate letter/Insert H.R. 3977 for House letter].

As you may know, the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Amendments Act of 2023 (Amendments Act) is needed to satisfy the requirements of the Navajo Nation San Juan River Basin Water Rights Settlement in New Mexico by authorizing funding to complete the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project. This Project will secure a reliable water supply for the City of Gallup and the Jicarilla Apache Nation, as well as thousands of members of the Navajo Nation. This settlement is vital to the Navajo people because:

* Approximately 30 percent of the Navajo households lack running water.
* The average cost for Navajos to haul water to their homes, ranches, and sheep camps is $133 per thousand gallons. Without the settlement, thousands of Navajos will continue to haul water an average of more than 30 miles round trip on unpaved, wash-board, and often muddy dirt roads to meet their daily water demands.
* Without enactment of the Amendments Act, the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project cannot be constructed because there is not enough funding authorized for completion of the Project; further delays to the Project are only hurting the communities that need the water from the Project to start flowing immediately.

The spending that will be authorized under [S. 1898 or H.R. 3977] will stimulate the economy and help communities across Northwestern New Mexico by creating jobs and providing clean, safe drinking water. I personally know many people in my community who will benefit from the water settlement, which will help to maintain a permanent homeland for two Tribal Nations and meet the water needs of Gallup.

[We recommend you add personal comments like, I haul water or our community ground water is contaminated, etc. in order to emphasize with the Senator/Representative how much you care about this settlement.]

In Navajo, *Tó éí iiná até*,withwater,there islife. I hope you will do everything you can to support [S. 1898 or H.R. 3977] and get it through Congress this session. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me should you wish to discuss this further.

Respectfully,

[Insert Your Name] [Insert Your Title if applicable] [Insert Your Email] [Insert Your Phone Number]

[Insert Your Address]

[Insert Date]

[Insert Your Name]

[Insert Your Address]

The Honorable [Insert Full Name of Senator]

[Insert Room #] [Insert Building Name] Senate Office Building

United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator [Insert Last Name]:

OR

The Honorable [Insert Full Name of Representative]

[Insert Room #] [Insert Building Name] House Office Building

United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative [Insert Last Name]:

My name is [Insert Your Name], and I reside in your district. I’m writing to urge you to support a water rights bill for the Navajo Nation: [Insert S. 4998 for Senate letter/Insert H.R. 8945 for House letter].

As you may know, the Navajo Nation Rio San José Stream System Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024 resolves four decades of litigation with a settlement that addresses water rights for the Navajo Nation in the Rio San José and Rio Puerco Basins in New Mexico. The Navajo Nation plans to use part of the settlement funding to support projects to import water to these basins, some of the driest in New Mexico. Lack of water is a significant challenge for the Navajo Nation:

* Roughly a third of the Navajo Nation households lack running water.
* The average cost for Navajos to haul water to their homes, ranches, and sheep camps is $133 per thousand gallons. Without the settlement, thousands of Navajos will continue to haul water an average of more than 30 miles round trip on unpaved, wash-board, and often muddy dirt roads to meet their daily water demands.
* The settlement provides certainty on the water rights that benefit all the parties that make use of the water in the basins, instead of expensive litigation.
* The settlement was negotiated and written as an addendum to the settlement of the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna that covers the same geographic area; together these fully compatible settlements will bring a new chance to an area that has long struggled with a depleted water supply.

Enactment of this legislation will promote economic development throughout the Rio San José and Rio Puerco Basins in New Mexico. I personally know many people in my community who will benefit from the water settlement to maintain a permanent homeland for the Navajo Nation.

[We recommend you add personal comments like, I haul water or our community ground water is contaminated, etc. in order to emphasize with the Senator/Representative how much you care about this settlement.]

In Navajo, *Tó éí iiná até*,withwater,there islife. I hope you will do everything you can to support [S. 4998 or H.R. 8945] and get it through Congress this session. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me should you wish to discuss this further.

Respectfully,

[Insert Your Name] [Insert Your Title if applicable] [Insert Your Email] [Insert Your Phone Number]

[Insert Your Address]

Additional Resource To Assist With Filling Out Letter:

* House of Representatives: [Find Your Representative | House.gov](http://house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative)
* Senate: [Contacting U.S. Senators | Senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm)

[http://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative](https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative)

<https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>