[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>