



BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS
NEW MEXICO

The Honorable Raúl Torrez
Attorney General of New Mexico
New Mexico Department of Justice
408 Galisteo Street
Villagra Building
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Attorney General Torrez,

On behalf of the New Mexico Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, thank you for your steadfast leadership in defending New Mexicans' constitutional right to access and enjoy our public waters.

Your office's recent successes in both state and federal court have reaffirmed a principle that is deeply rooted in New Mexico's history and constitution: our rivers and streams belong to the people. By taking decisive action to enforce the law and protect public access, you have helped ensure that anglers, paddlers, hunters, and outdoor recreationists can continue to enjoy these important resources for generations to come.

As an organization that was proud to be part of the original effort to defend stream access in New Mexico, we greatly appreciate your commitment to upholding the rights of all New Mexicans and safeguarding our outdoor heritage. BHA became a plaintiff in the lawsuit challenging the state's interpretation of stream access law and helped drive the case that ultimately reached the New Mexico Supreme Court. The Court's landmark 2022 ruling affirmed that the public has a constitutional right to recreate in New Mexico's public waters, even when those waters flow through private property.

Thank you for your service and for continuing to stand up for public access.

Sincerely,

New Mexico Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers



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