

To: Representative Andrea Romero

April 30, 2025

The Honorable Andrea Romero
New Mexico House of Representatives
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Representative Romero,

Thank you for attending our recent community meeting. Your willingness to listen and engage gives us hope—and your voice, as our representative, carries real weight in this fight. The people of Tesuque are rising to protect their water, land, and future, but we cannot do it alone. At this moment, we are asking you to stand with us—not beside us, but as one of us—to ensure that the laws already on the books are enforced, and that the health of our community is not sacrificed for convenience or political ease. We need your advocacy to be as clear and firm as ours—because when you speak up, others listen.

As you know, Bishop's Lodge, Auberge Resorts and Juniper Capital have secured a discharge permit from NMED that not only violates the Liquid Waste Regulations (20.7.3 NMAC) but endangers the health and drinking water of hundreds of New Mexicans. These regulations exist to ensure that the responsibility for safe liquid waste disposal remains with the property owner—not externalized to neighbors downstream.

We want to know where our elected representatives stand on these important issues—and what they stand for.

- **Even-Handed Enforcement of Liquid Waste Regulations:**
The Liquid Waste Regulations prohibit property owners from shifting the hazards of their waste disposal onto their neighbors. Do you agree these protections must be applied to all—including Bishop's Lodge Resort and the Hills and Villas subdivision? What will you do to ensure NMED and Santa Fe County enforce the law and stop the Resort from transferring its risk to downstream neighbors?
- **Constitutional and Legal Accountability:**
NMED refuses to apply the Liquid Waste Regulations to the Resort's discharge, claiming the rules don't apply to the largest, most hazardous generators. We believe this violates state law and the New Mexico Constitution. Will you publicly support Protect Tesuque's Petition for a Writ of Mandamus now before the Supreme Court—and affirm that no developer (large or small) should be exempt from environmental protections?
- **Immediate Protection of Aquifers and Drinking Water:**
When asked how you would protect our water, you pointed to a possible future sewer system. But our aquifers are under threat now. We cannot wait for distant solutions while reckless discharges put our water at risk today. Do you agree that immediate enforcement of existing laws is essential to prevent irreversible contamination of Tesuque's drinking water?

In light of these issues facing our community, we respectfully ask you to take the following steps:

- **Sign our public petition** calling for consistent and equal enforcement of New Mexico's Liquid Waste Regulations.
- **Support our Writ of Mandamus**, which asks the New Mexico Supreme Court to compel NMED to fulfill its legal obligation to protect public health and the environment.
- **Publicly urge NMED and the Governor** to end selective enforcement and restore integrity to the regulatory framework designed to safeguard all New Mexicans.

This issue is about more than Tesuque. It is about upholding the law, protecting public health, and refusing to allow bureaucratic complacency to jeopardize clean water.

Sincerely,

The Board of Protect Tesuque

Mark DeCamp

Rusty Day

Bernadette Romero-Jaramillo

Jamie Gagan

Clara Dougherty

Kathleen Bryan