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Rio San José and Rio Jemez Water Settlements Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: Mar 1, 2023

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 274.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 274. (Dec 12, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/595>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NM • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Mar 1, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 12, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Native Americans

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 1304	Identical bill	Jul 23, 2024: Subcommittee Hearings Held

Rio San José and Rio Jemez Water Settlements Act of 2023

This bill recognizes and settles certain water rights claims in New Mexico of (1) the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna, and (2) the Pueblos of Jemez and Zia. It also establishes and provides funding for settlement trust funds.

Specifically, the bill authorizes, ratifies, and confirms a specified water rights settlement agreement entered into by the Pueblo of Acoma, the Pueblo of Laguna, the United States, New Mexico, and others, thus satisfying claims to water rights in the Rio San José Stream System in New Mexico.

With respect to the water settlement for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna, the bill establishes and provides funding for the Pueblo of Acoma Settlement Trust Fund, the Pueblo of Laguna Settlement Trust Fund, and the Acomita Reservoir Works Trust Fund.

Additionally, the bill authorizes, ratifies, and confirms a specified water rights settlement agreement entered into by the Pueblo of Jemez, the Pueblo of Zia, the United States, New Mexico, and others, thus satisfying claims to water rights in the Jemez River Stream System in New Mexico.

With respect to the water settlement for the Pueblos of Jemez and Zia, the bill establishes and provides funding for the Pueblo of Jemez Settlement Trust Fund and the Pueblo of Zia Settlement Trust Fund.

For both of these agreements, the bill (1) specifies the water rights of the pueblos; and (2) outlines waivers, releases, and retentions of claims by the pueblos and the United States.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 12, 2023:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Reported by Senator Schatz without amendment. With written report No. 118-131.
- **Dec 12, 2023:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 274.
- **Mar 29, 2023:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Mar 1, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 1, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.