



**BACKCOUNTRY  
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**  
NEW MEXICO

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor of New Mexico  
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Grisham:

We the undersigned business owners have an enormous stake in defending public access opportunities to New Mexico's waterways. We were buoyed by the New Mexico State Game Commission's decision to enact a moratorium on a program that allows landowners to eliminate public access into waterways crossing private property. We respectfully urge you to support the commission's decision and reaffirm the state's commitment to upholding access opportunities critical to New Mexico's economy and outdoor traditions.

New Mexico's rivers and streams are integral to the state's burgeoning \$9.9 billion outdoor recreation economy and sustain an outdoor heritage that defines the lives of residents of the Land of Enchantment. As business owners, we possess a unique appreciation of these resources and are grateful for your leadership in supporting access to our public lands and waters.

Across the United States, we have witnessed the extreme measures being undertaken to cordon off public access to our lands and waters. States that allow these efforts to succeed can see declines in the quality and abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities. Conversely, states where public access opportunities are upheld can augment their economies, help small businesses and communities flourish, and drive critical fish and wildlife conservation initiatives through license dollars and cooperative agreements with landowners. In New Mexico, nearly 100,000 jobs depend on public lands and the opportunities they provide, and outdoor recreation fuels \$623 million in annual state and local tax revenues.

Since statehood, New Mexicans have enjoyed the constitutional right to access any stream or river within the state, with the provision that they do not trespass on private ground. A cornerstone of our culture and our outdoor recreation economy, this right has been upheld in the New Mexico Supreme Court. We expect that the commission's decision will be challenged and that the battle for public access will continue. We look to you now to continue to support the commission's mandate to protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and public lands and waters for the benefit and enjoyment of New Mexico's citizens.

Sincerely,

Sage Fly Fishing  
Redington  
RIO Products

Fly Water Travel  
Ross Reels  
Abel Reels

RepYourWater  
Fishpond  
American Fly Fishing Trade Association



---

[WWW.BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG/NEW\\_MEXICO\\_BHA](http://WWW.BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG/NEW_MEXICO_BHA)  
[NEWMEXICO@BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG](mailto:NEWMEXICO@BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG)