

Governor Bill Richardson Statement on 10th Circuit decision

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"The decision is a setback for New Mexico, and we must pursue all legal remedies to overturn this shortsighted decision, all the way to the Supreme Court," Governor Richardson said. "As governor, I pledge my best efforts to protect Albuquerque and New Mexico from this grievous imbalance in the Endangered Species Act.

"Under the agreement signed last month between New Mexico and the federal government, there are set amounts to be stored and distributed. If the Federal government honors that agreement as to the amount of water allowed to be stored and released and the amount released necessary to comply with the Endangered species Act, we'll be OK.

I will be talking to our Congressional delegation, Attorney General Madrid and to Mayor Chavez to see what steps we can take to reverse this.

I am willing to meet with the Bush Administration to get assurances that the Federal Government will not take any action during litigation.

I support taking this case to the Supreme Court. However, I firmly believe that the Federal government should not take action that will hurt our economy, our cities and do irreparable damage to our state until this is resolved one way or another.

I support asking the full 10th circuit to review the decision. A three-judge panel decided it with one judge dissenting."