

## *A 30th Anniversary Proposal from our Director*



I started the New Mexico Environmental Law Center in response to the election of a State Attorney General who had no interest in protecting our environment; 30 years later – long after his term ended – the Law Center is going strong. In fact, because of your support, we have challenged scores of officials (and companies and schemes) who would endanger our most vulnerable communities and vital resources. Together, we have made a real difference for our state’s people and places.

I thought that when Governor Martinez was elected, the Law Center was facing its greatest executive challenge. Her very first executive order tried to prevent the printing of regulations limiting greenhouse gas emissions – and since then her administration has not let up on its anti-environment, anti-science, anti-public agenda. Given our new president’s actions and appointments to date, however, I think I was wrong about the governor.

But there is something that we can do, right now, to prepare for the future. In the face of adversity, the Law Center seeks to become an even stronger force for the public interest in our state. That is why we are undertaking the NMH<sub>2</sub>O Campaign during our 30th year. This year, we are raising funds to hire an experienced water attorney, a recently graduated water fellow to mentor in public-interest water law, and a paralegal to help all of our attorneys accomplish more. With threats from climate change, privatization, and legalized pollution, water is threatened today in our state like never before. We need great lawyers who will focus on its protection, and who will develop solutions to protect our rural communities and our urban communities and their drinking water supplies.

**The price tag?** Roughly \$150,000 for year 1 (starting in 2018). I’m pleased to say that we’ve already been given the opportunity to obtain a \$50,000 challenge grant, and now I need to ask for your help to get the rest of the way.

I am humbled by the trust you have placed in the Law Center and me. Together, I am optimistic about what we can do in a time that will threaten our people and our resources. If you would like to contribute to this campaign, or can help, please contact Elizabeth Lee, Director of Philanthropy, at (505) 989-9022.

Thank you.

Yours truly,  
*Doug*



Rio Bonito Photo Courtesy of Summitpost.org

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