

I do not think it is in the best interests of the people of Taos, of New Mexico, of the United States, or even of the Taos Indians themselves, to give this land to the Pueblo. I respectfully request your efforts to defeat this legislation.

Yours truly,

JOHN W. WATERS.

TIFFIN, OHIO, September 15, 1968.

Subject: Bill H.R. 3306.

Senator GEORGE MCGOVERN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. MCGOVERN: I urge you to support the above bill giving complete stewardship to the Taos Pueblo Council for the Blue Lake. For centuries they have cherished and guarded this lake as it is very very vital to them. Let us entrust it to them for the future benefit of the Taos Indians and for all the rest of the country to appreciate the remarkable job of taking care of something which is rightfully theirs.

Yours very truly,

JOSEPH E. MCCLOUD.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX., September 16, 1968.

Senator GEORGE MCGOVERN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MCGOVERN: Please recommend and work for the passage of the bill (H.R. 3306) to return the Blue Lake area of Carson National Forest to the Pueblo of Taos, in New Mexico.

This land was wrongfully taken from the Indians, as has been confirmed by the Indian Claims Commission. For religious and other reasons they do not want money compensation for this land, they want the land returned to them.

As the New York Times editorial of July 17, 1968 stated, "This measure gives the Senate a clear opportunity to correct one of the multitude of tragic mistakes of the past in the abuse of the American Indian."

For 60 years these people have courageously sought the return of their land—they certainly deserve it!

Theirs is a unique situation; it should not set up precedent for other Indian tribes.

Thank you for your efforts on their behalf.

Sincerely,

LOUISA B. SANDO.

TAOS, N. MEX., July 19, 1968.

Senator CLINTON P. ANDERSON,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ANDERSON: As a property owner in the Ranchitos area adjacent to Taos, I am expressing my disagreement with the proposed bill to give 48,000 acres of federally owned land to the Taos Pueblo to be managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

I concur with the idea of reserving the area adjacent to Blue Lake for religious purposes. But do they need 48,000 acres?

As a conservationist I am concerned with what the effects mismanagement will have on this high water yielding watershed. A quick review of the Indian owned lands around Taos and the Pueblo Range reseeded areas will definitely show that even with the assistance of federal agencies the Taos Pueblo Indians are not properly managing their lands.

For this reason, I urge you to consider keeping the amount of land to be given away, to a minimum and leaving as much as possible under the management of the National Forest System.

Respectfully,

EMILIO S. LUJAN.