

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5478

To improve the implementation of the settlement agreement reached between the Pueblo de Cochiti of New Mexico and the Corps of Engineers, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 14, 2016

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To improve the implementation of the settlement agreement reached between the Pueblo de Cochiti of New Mexico and the Corps of Engineers, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Pueblo de Cochiti Self-  
5 Governance Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS.**

2 (a) GENERAL AUTHORIZATION.—Section 1 of Public  
3 Law 102–358 (106 Stat. 960; 118 Stat. 543) is amend-  
4 ed—

5 (1) by striking paragraph (2);

6 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “; and” at the  
7 end and inserting a period;

8 (3) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

9 (A) by striking “The Secretary” and in-  
10 serting the following:

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

12 (B) by striking “implement—” and all  
13 that follows through “the settlement” in para-  
14 graph (1) and inserting “implement the settle-  
15 ment”; and

16 (4) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(b) RATIFICATION.—Congress ratifies and approves  
18 the modifications regarding the use of the settlement  
19 funds and transfer of responsibility for the drainage sys-  
20 tem, as described in the agreement known as ‘Amendment  
21 to the Settlement Agreement for Implementation of  
22 Cochiti Wetfields Solution’, executed on—

23 “(1) October 15, 2015, by the Department of  
24 the Interior;

25 “(2) October 21, 2015, by the Corps of Engi-  
26 neers; and

1           “(3) October 27, 2015, by the Pueblo de  
2 Cochiti of New Mexico.”.

3           (b) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—Section 2 of Pub-  
4 lic Law 102–358 (106 Stat. 960) is amended to read as  
5 follows:

6 **“SEC. 2. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.**

7           “(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the settle-  
8 ment agreement and pursuant to the government-to-gov-  
9 ernment relationship between the United States and the  
10 Pueblo de Cochiti of New Mexico and the modifications  
11 to the settlement agreement under section 1(b), the Pueb-  
12 lo de Cochiti of New Mexico, as an exercise of self-deter-  
13 mination, assumes any and all legal and financial respon-  
14 sibility for the operation, maintenance, repair, and re-  
15 placement of the drainage system.

16           “(b) NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR DRAINAGE SYSTEM.—  
17 The United States shall have no further legal or financial  
18 responsibility for the operation, maintenance, repair, or re-  
19 placement of the drainage system.

20           “(c) RELEASE FROM LIABILITY.—Effective begin-  
21 ning on the date on which the Pueblo de Cochiti of New  
22 Mexico assumes all legal and financial responsibility for  
23 the operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of the  
24 drainage system under subsection (a), the Pueblo de  
25 Cochiti of New Mexico, on behalf of the Pueblo de Cochiti

1 of New Mexico and the members of the Pueblo de Cochiti  
2 of New Mexico, waives and releases the United States  
3 from all past, present, and future liability for any claim  
4 relating to the operation, maintenance, repair, or replace-  
5 ment of the drainage system.”.

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