



State of New Mexico  
*Office of the Governor*

Bill Richardson  
Governor

July 15, 2010.

Ms. Helen Hankins  
State Director  
BLM Colorado State Office  
2850 Youngfield Street  
Lakewood, CO 80215-7093

Dear Ms. Hankins:

I write to offer my support for *Over The River*, Christo and Jeanne-Claude's proposed temporary work of art along the Arkansas River in southern Colorado. This project is a unique opportunity for the internationally recognized artists to "wrap" a beautiful section of southern Colorado. The range of benefits this temporary work of art would have on the region, specifically New Mexico, is significant and I urge you to support this project as proposed.

The suspension of 5.9 miles of luminous fabric above a 40-mile stretch of the Arkansas River will be a tremendous exercise in engineering. I understand that the artists have an outstanding track record on safety, transportation and environmental issues.

Northern New Mexico is a much sought after tourist destination. I am certain that this project would bring additional visitors to the Land of Enchantment for a regional experience in arts, culture and history. The economic value created from additional visitors to Taos, Santa Fe, and Northern New Mexico will bolster our tourism industry. This project has been supported by tourism industries, arts organizations and officials at all levels of government and is receiving increasing support from New Mexico.

I understand that the Bureau of Land Management is fast approaching the 45-day Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) comment period and ask that this temporary, two-week project be given a full and vigorous review. Our people and our environment must be considered and cared for and I am assured that the artists will make every reasonable effort to avoid negative impacts to both.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this project and for seeing that it receives every consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Richardson".

Bill Richardson  
Governor of New Mexico

CC: Secretary Ken Salazar  
Governor Bill Ritter, Jr.