

### **HB 259--RECOVER DAMAGES FOR NATURAL RESOURCE INJURIES**

This morning HB 259, the expansion of the office of the natural resource trustee, stalled in the House Energy Committee on a 5 to 5 vote. The Attorney General sent a representative to be the expert witness on this bill. He is also the one who asked the sponsor to carry this bill as a direct attack on industry, royalty owners, ranchers, landowners and mining. The Land Commissioner also sent a representative to support this very bad bill.

The Republican members on the committee, Strickler, Ezzell, Bratton and Lewis, did an excellent job opposing the bill. Representative Magdalena voted to table the bill as it would significantly impact operations on Indian lands. The bill will go to the House Judiciary Committee next.