



# 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

## Office of the Speaker

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 15, 2019

### MEDIA CONTACT

Carl Slater, Director of Communications and Government Affairs  
Bronson Peshlakai, Sr. Public Information Officer  
(928) 318-4896  
nlnb.communications@gmail.com

## Navajo Nation Council Commends Navajo Utah Water Settlement's Advancement

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Today the US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs passed S.1207 The Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act out of committee.

The bill was introduced by Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT). Both Senators Martha McSally (R-AZ) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) are co-sponsors of the legislation.

“Advancing this bill is an important step in the right direction for the Navajo Nation and the State of Utah,” stated Navajo Nation Council Speaker Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh). “Growth requires water and S.1207 supports the development of water infrastructure on Navajo with much-needed funding and clarity on quantification. I commend the committee for moving this bill forward for the benefit of Navajo and Utah citizens.”

“I again want to thank the leaders of the Navajo Nation, State of Utah, as well as members of the committee for their consideration of S.1207 and hope you move favorably to its resolution,” Senator Romney stated during the hearing.

Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) also expressed his support for the bill's passage during the hearing.

The settlement act takes action on several matters. First, the act provides the Navajo Nation the right to deplete 81,500 acre-feet per year from Utah's Colorado River Basin apportionment. Secondly, it authorizes \$210 million in federal funding and \$8 million in state funding to address the short-term and long-term water development needs of the Utah portion of the Navajo Nation.

“I want to thank Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Speaker Damon and the Utah leadership for their strong advocacy of this bill,” said Council Delegate Herman Daniels (Shonto, Naa'tsis'áán, Oljato, Ts'áh Bii Kin). “When it passes Congress, my constituents in San Juan County will finally gain access to the modern water infrastructure that most of the United States enjoys. We will continue to advocate for the settlement's passage in the 116th Congress.”

The House of Representatives companion, H.R.644, was introduced by Representative Rob Bishop (R-UT) on January 17, 2019. It has been referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife under the Committee on Natural Resources.

###

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org) or find us on Facebook and Twitter, keywords: Navajo Nation Council