



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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25th Navajo Nation Council celebrates introduction of the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement before Congress



Council Delegates Germaine Simonson, Cheryl Yazzie, and Speaker Crystalyne Curley joined Senator Mark Kelly and Hopi Chairman Tim Nuvangyaoma at a reception celebrating the introduction of the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement before Congress.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council joined Hopi Chairman Tim Nuvangyaoma, U.S. Senator Mark Kelly (D-AZ), and Congressman Eli Crane (R-AZ-02) for a reception at the Navajo Nation Washington Office to celebrate the introduction of the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement before Congress.

In the Senate, the bill was introduced by Senators Kelly and Ruben Gallego (D-AZ). In the House, it was introduced by U.S. Representatives Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ), Greg Stanton (D-AZ), Eli Crane (R-AZ), Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), David Schweikert (R-AZ), and Yassamin Ansari (D-AZ).

During the reception, Speaker Curley emphasized the settlement's role in securing prosperity for future generations of Diné, Hopi, and San Juan Southern Paiute.

"It's an exciting day to see this settlement introduced. It's been a long time coming," Speaker Curley said. "People doubted that three tribes could unite. This dispute was imposed on us, but with something as vital as water at stake, we came together—not for ourselves, but for our children."

Hopi Chairman Nuvangyaoma called the settlement's introduction a historic moment.

“I want to thank our Navajo and San Juan Southern Paiute relatives for setting aside differences, as we did as Hopi,” he said. “This settlement isn’t for us—it’s for the sustainability and survival of future generations. It must happen.”

The proposed settlement guarantees access to meaningful and reliable Upper Basin Colorado River Water, as well as Fourth Priority Lower Basin Colorado River Water—an allocation more secure than CAP Non-Indian Agricultural water. It also provides the flexibility to transport Arizona water from New Mexico and Utah into Arizona, a practice currently prohibited under the Law of the River. Additionally, it allows Upper Basin Colorado River Water to be used in the Nation’s Lower Basin communities and vice versa.

The settlement would also secure nearly \$5 billion for water delivery infrastructure, ensuring long-term water access. These investments are critical for improving water management and reliability. It also provides an alternative source of clean drinking water for Arizona communities that currently depend almost entirely on groundwater.

“As you know, water is everything. Without it, we can’t grow crops or maintain a decent standard of living,” said Sen. Kelly. “We must build bipartisan support to make this happen.”

Representative Crane expressed his commitment to the settlement’s success.

“We have a lot of work ahead, and I’m honored to help push this across the finish line,” said Rep. Crane.

Council Delegates Cherilyn Yazzie, Carl R. Slater, Germaine Simonson, and Nathan Notah attended the reception.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council thanks Congressional leaders for introducing the settlement and for their continued efforts to secure its approval during this session.

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