



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

## 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Tribal leaders present united voice in support of the Northern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement**



**Left to right: San Juan Southern Paiute Vice President Johnny Lehi Jr., Navajo Nation Speaker Crystalyne Curley, Office of Management and Budget Associate Director Stuart Levenbach, Hopi Chairman Lamar B. Keevama, Hopi Vice Chairman Mikah H. Kewanimptewa, and Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren.**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — On Wednesday, leaders from the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, and San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe led a unified call for federal support to advance the Northern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement in meetings with the federal Office of Management and Budget, U.S. Department of the Interior, and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

During the meetings, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and Speaker Crystalyne Curley emphasized the importance of securing federal funding to implement the settlement and discussed the next steps in preparation for an upcoming hearing before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. The discussions focused on ensuring long-term water security, infrastructure development, and economic stability for many communities across northern Arizona.

The leaders stated that the settlement represents years of negotiations and collaboration among tribes, the state of Arizona, various water users and stakeholders, and the federal government to resolve complex water rights issues and to provide certainty for future generations.

"This agreement is essential to protecting our water rights and strengthening the foundation and long-term prosperity of our communities," Speaker Curley said. "We appreciate the engagement of federal partners as we work together toward full congressional approval and funding of the settlement."

The 17 participants to the settlement include the United States, the State of Arizona, and the Hopi and San Juan Southern Paiute Tribes. The settlement calls for the Navajo Nation to receive a substantial amount of the Colorado River Upper Basin water, some Lower Basin water, all groundwater underlying the Navajo Nation, all surface water that reaches the Navajo Nation from the Little Colorado River, and all wash water that reaches the Nation south of the Hopi Tribe's land.

The settlement has bipartisan support and has been introduced in the Senate by U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly (D-AZ) and in the House by Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ).

The 25th Navajo Nation Council continues making water rights a top priority to bring much needed water resources and infrastructure to communities across the Navajo Nation.

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