



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

July 2, 2024

The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
House of Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1203 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for Establishment of Subaccounts in the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund

Dear Ranking Member Grijalva:

On behalf of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, I am writing to express our strong support for the legislation "To establish subaccounts in the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund to satisfy the obligations of the United States with respect to certain Indian water rights settlements, and for other purposes," which will provide needed funding for new and existing Indian water settlements.

It is my understanding that one of the subaccounts to be established is an Operations, Maintenance and Repair (OM&R) Subaccount. The funds deposited in this subaccount will be used to satisfy the obligations of the United States to specific tribes for OM&R on water infrastructure. This legislation would provide those necessary funds for the Animas-La Plata Project, which is the foundation of the Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 1988.

Thank you for your sponsorship of this legislation. The Tribe supports swift passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melvin J. Baker".

Melvin J. Baker
Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribe