



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATIE HOBBS
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

August 23, 2024

The Honorable Brian Schatz, Chairman
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
838 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
838 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Yavapai-Apache Nation Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024 (S. 4705)

Dear Chairman Schatz and Vice Chairman Murkowski:

I am writing to express my support for S. 4705, the Yavapai-Apache Nation Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024, and to respectfully request for a hearing to be held by the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in September, or as soon as possible.

This critical legislation approves and authorizes a comprehensive settlement of the water rights claims of the Yavapai-Apache Nation in Arizona. Securing this settlement is a priority for the State of Arizona because it provides members of the Yavapai-Apache Nation with reliable and sustainable water supplies, which in turn helps secure their permanent homeland. It is also a priority for the State of Arizona because the settlement provides certainty to non-tribal water users regarding the available water supplies in Arizona, enhances the preservation of the Verde River, and supports our policy to preserve groundwater.

I would like to thank the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs for considering the legislation, Senator Kelly for introducing this important bill, and Senator Sinema for cosponsoring it. This legislation will have a generational impact on the Yavapai-Apache Nation and the State of Arizona, and I appreciate your consideration of this request to hold a hearing on the bill in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KH', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Katie Hobbs
Governor
State of Arizona