



August 26, 2023

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: Request for Hearing on the Yavapai-Apache Nation Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024 (S.4705)

Dear Chairman Schatz and Vice Chairman Murkowski:

On behalf of the Town of Clarkdale, we are writing to respectfully request that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hold a hearing on the Yavapai-Apache Nation Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024 (S.4705) at its earliest convenience.

The Yavapai-Apache Nation is one of our neighbors in the Verde Valley and has two neighborhoods within the Clarkdale Town limits. The Town's lands and water future are closely intertwined with those of the Nation. Our Town enjoys a cooperative, mutually respectful, and beneficial government-to-government relationship with the Nation on these shared goals and objectives. To this end, we have worked closely with the Nation for many years to complete a mutually beneficial water rights Settlement Agreement that will help achieve water security for the Town and the Nation, while also benefitting the health and vitality of the Verde River and the Verde Valley region as a whole.

On behalf of the Town of Clarkdale, we thank you for your leadership on Indian water rights settlements, and we hope you will promptly hold a hearing on the Yavapai-Apache Nation Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024 (S.4705). We appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Susan Guthrie, APR, CM-ICMA, MPA
Town Manager
Town of Clarkdale
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