



## **UTE INDIAN TRIBE**

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### **Biography for Witness before the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies**

**Vice Chairman Ed Secakuku  
Business Committee  
Ute Indian Tribe**

**March 18, 2016**

Vice Chairman Secakuku was elected to the Ute Indian Tribe's Business Committee in April of 2015. He serves as one of two representatives of the White River Band on the Business Committee. Following his election, the members of the Business Committee appointed him to serve as Vice Chairman.

As a member of the Business Committee, Vice Chairman Secakuku is focused on protecting the Tribe's jurisdiction over its Reservation, and promoting the Tribe's energy and economic development. Vice Chairman Secakuku is also working to obtain the trust restoration of lands within the Tribe's Uncompahgre Reservation under the Indian Reorganization Act, while at the same time preventing those same lands from being taken by legislation proposed by Congressman Rob Bishop for a Utah Public Lands Initiative.

Prior to his election to the Business Committee, Vice Chairman Secakuku worked for 4 years as a Manager of the Tribe's bison herd.

Vice Chairman Secakuku served for 33 years in the Federal government. He began his career as a Forestry Technician for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and later became the BIA's Fire Manager at the Uintah and Ouray Agency, Fort Duchesne, Utah. Vice Chairman Secakuku next worked at the national level for the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho. He retired from the Federal government in 2011.

At the National Interagency Fire Center, Vice Chairman Secakuku developed national fire training courses for the National Wildfire Coordination Group. He developed and conducted training courses for national and international wildland firefighters. He also help to train U.S. military firefighters at Fort Hood, Texas and Fort Lewis, Washington to battle major western wildfires in 2006 and 2007.