



THE NAVAJO NATION

 RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
 JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

August 22, 2018

Lisa Murkowski
 Chairwoman
 Senate Comm. on Energy & Natural Resources
 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Maria Cantwell
 Ranking Member
 Senate Comm. on Energy & Natural Resources
 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Mike Lee
 Chairman
 Subcomm. on Public Lands, Forests & Mining
 361A Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Ron Wyden
 Ranking Member
 Subcomm. on Public Lands, Forests & Mining
 221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for S. 2907, The Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act of 2018

Dear Senators Murkowski, Cantwell, Lee and Wyden:

I write to you as President of the Navajo Nation to express our support and request yours for the passage of S. 2907, the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act of 2018, which was introduced by Senator Udall and Senator Heinrich. This bill will help protect the sacred and cultural Native American sites and artifacts within the Chaco Canyon National Historic Park from further mineral development on federal land while maintaining the rights of the owners of trust and tribal allotments.

The Navajo Nation has a strong interest in this legislation as the Chaco Canyon National Historic Park sits within our borders, and we have deep ties to the land. We believe in protecting our native cultural resources because they are invaluable, historical, irreplaceable and embody a strong spiritual significance for the Indian tribes in the region. As such, we consider any further disturbance to this area as culturally and morally unacceptable. S. 2907 reflects hundreds of public comments and is supported by the All Pueblo Council of Governors, the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, the Wilderness Society, and Southwest Native Cultures. Therefore, I urge the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to move the bill forward to the full Senate for passage. Thank you.

Sincerely,

NAVAJO NATION

Russell Begaye, *President*