



STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATIE HOBBS  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

July 19, 2024

The Honorable Cliff Bentz, Chair  
House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman, Ranking Member  
House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries  
1332 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024 (H.R. 8940)**

Dear Chairman Bentz and Ranking Member Huffman:

I am pleased to express my support for H.R. 8940, the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024. This important legislation approves and authorizes a comprehensive settlement of the water rights claims of the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe and San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe in Arizona. Settling the outstanding tribal water rights claims in Arizona is a priority for the State, and enactment of this legislation is a critical step in achieving that goal.

The three Tribes have some of the largest outstanding tribal water rights claims in Arizona, including claims to the Colorado River, in-state surface water and groundwater. The settlement of these claims will end decades of conflict and litigation, provide certainty to the Tribes and other water users regarding their water rights, and ensure reliable, secure and safe water supplies for the three Tribes.

Many homes on the three Reservations lack access to clean running water, a basic human necessity. The settlement will help alleviate this situation by providing the Tribes with rights to reliable and sustainable water supplies, and by providing funding for the construction and operation of much needed infrastructure projects to treat and deliver

the water to communities on the three Reservations. Enactment of the legislation by Congress will therefore contribute to the process of ensuring that all Arizonans have access to clean running water in their homes.

This settlement is the result of the tireless efforts of the three Tribes, the State of Arizona, municipalities and numerous non-tribal water users in the state. I would like to thank all the parties for their hard work on the settlement, H.R. 8940's sponsors, and the House Subcommittee for hearing this legislation which is of great importance to the State of Arizona.

Sincerely,

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

Katie Hobbs  
Governor  
State of Arizona