

Member Statement - Chair Grijalva
H.R. 5715 – Udall Foundation Reauthorization

I thank the Chair for bringing my bill, H.R. 5715, To reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund before the Subcommittee. I also want to express my gratitude for Mr. Charlie Rose, Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Udall Foundation, for taking the time to testify on this legislation.

H.R. 5715, would reauthorize the Morris K. and Stewart L. Udall Foundation’s Trust Fund. Congress established the Udall Foundation in 1992 as an independent federal agency to honor Morris K. Udall’s impact on the nation’s environment and his support for the rights and self-governance of tribal governments. Morris K. Udall, known by many as “Mo,” has a deep history on this Committee, our hearing room is named after him, and he was a former Chairman for nearly 15 years.

The Udall Foundation houses many essential education programs, including the non-partisan Native American Congressional Internship, the Undergraduate Scholarship, and the Fellowship for Ph.D. candidates.

In addition, the Foundation provides mediation assistance to federal agencies and affected stakeholders involved in environmental and resource disputes through its Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution. In the 116th Congress, the Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution was successfully renamed in honor of the late Senator John McCain and his support in establishing the Foundation.

Today, the Foundation works with the University of Arizona’s Native Nations Institute to provide training to tribal governments working on nation-building efforts. The Foundation also works to foster an appreciation for this nation’s public lands through its youth program, Parks in Focus. The Foundation serves as a critical resource for the next generation of policy leaders—and it has had countless success stories since its establishment.

As Chair of the Committee, I appreciate the Foundation’s efforts to support tribal communities and foster educational and professional growth in our nation’s youth. I am proud to sponsor this legislation, guaranteeing the Foundation its appropriations funding for the next five years to 2029.

H.R. 5715 will ensure that the Foundation remains an essential partner in tribal and environmental education – by reauthorizing its funding, this great work will continue for future generations.

I thank all the witnesses for their testimony and the Subcommittee for the consideration of this legislation.