

## S 664

Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2018

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Native Americans

**Introduced:** Mar 15, 2017

**Current Status:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 706.

**Latest Action:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 706. (Nov 29, 2018)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/664>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** UT • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors

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*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

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Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Nov 29, 2018

### Subjects & Policy Tags

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**Policy Area:**

Native Americans

### Related Bills

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*No related bills are listed.*

## **Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2016**

This bill ratifies and modifies the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Agreement negotiated between the Navajo Nation, the United States, and Utah. Specifically, the bill enumerates the Navajo Nation's right to use water from sources located within Utah and adjacent to or encompassed within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Reservation. The use is limited to depletions of 81,500 acre-feet or less per year. The water rights: (1) include the rights to divert, pump, impound, store, or reuse water; and (2) are not subject to loss by non-use, forfeiture, or abandonment.

In return for confirmation of these rights, the Navajo Nation waives and releases: (1) claims for water rights that are not recognized in the agreement; and (2) claims for specified damage, loss, or injury to water, water rights, land, or other resources.

The Bureau of Reclamation must: (1) plan, design, and construct the water diversion, delivery, and conservation features of the Navajo water development projects; and (2) convey to the Navajo Nation title to certain water development projects described as water supply and water distribution systems once they are complete and in operation.

The Department of the Interior must facilitate the formation of a project management committee.

The bill establishes: (1) a trust account for the operation, maintenance, and replacement of the Navajo water development projects authorized to be constructed and described in the agreement as water supply systems and water distribution systems; and (2) a fund to plan, design, and construct the projects.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Nov 29, 2018:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Reported by Senator Hoeven with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title. With written report No. 115-401.
- **Nov 29, 2018:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 706.
- **Oct 3, 2018:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Dec 6, 2017:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-179.
- **Mar 15, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 15, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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