

S 1987

Fort Belknap Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: Jun 14, 2023

Current Status: Held at the desk.

Latest Action: Held at the desk. (Jun 21, 2024)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1987>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]

Party: Democratic • State: MT • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Jun 14, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Discharged From	Jun 20, 2024

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Native Americans

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 2670	Related bill	Dec 22, 2023: Became Public Law No: 118-31.
118 HR 5088	Identical bill	Jul 28, 2023: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
118 S 2226	Related bill	Jul 27, 2023: Senate ordered measure printed as passed.

## Fort Belknap Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act of 2023

This bill modifies and ratifies a specified water rights settlement agreement entered into by the United States, Montana, and the Fort Belknap Indian Community (i.e., the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes).

The bill requires the community's water rights to be held in trust for the benefit of the community and its allottees. The community must enact a tribal water code to regulate its water rights.

Additionally, the bill authorizes the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture (as applicable) to enter negotiations with Montana to exchange certain state lands for federal lands to be held in trust for the benefit of the community.

The bill also

- establishes the Aaniiih Nakoda Settlement Trust Fund (and specified accounts) for purposes of carrying out this bill,
- establishes the Fort Belknap Indian Community Water Settlement Implementation Fund (and specified accounts) for purposes of carrying out this bill, and
- provides funding for specified accounts established by the bill.

## Actions Timeline

---

- **Jun 21, 2024:** Received in the House.
- **Jun 21, 2024:** Held at the desk.
- **Jun 20, 2024:** Senate Committee on Indian Affairs discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- **Jun 20, 2024:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S4172)
- **Jun 20, 2024:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Voice Vote. (text of amendment in the nature of a substitute: CR S4188-4198)
- **Jun 20, 2024:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Voice Vote. (text of amendment in the nature of a substitute: CR S4188-4198)
- **Jun 20, 2024:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Jul 19, 2023:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jul 12, 2023:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 118-120.
- **Jun 14, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 14, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.