

S 563

Ohkay Owingeh Rio Chama Water Rights Settlement Act of 2025

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: Feb 13, 2025

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 428.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 428. (Jun 4, 2026)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/563>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NM • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Luján, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Feb 13, 2025

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Markup By	Mar 5, 2025
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Jun 4, 2026

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Native Americans

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 HR 1323	Identical bill	Feb 13, 2025: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Ohkay Owingeh Rio Chama Water Rights Settlement Act of 2025

This bill recognizes and settles certain water rights claims in New Mexico of the pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh. It also establishes and provides funding for a settlement trust fund.

Specifically, the bill authorizes, ratifies, and confirms a specified water rights settlement agreement entered into by Ohkay Owingeh, New Mexico, and others, thus satisfying claims to water rights in the Rio Chama Stream System in New Mexico.

The bill establishes and provides funding for the Ohkay Owingeh Water Rights Settlement Trust Fund. This trust fund may only be used for five specified purposes, including for activities related to water production, treatment, or delivery infrastructure.

The bill also (1) specifies the water rights of the pueblo; and (2) outlines waivers, releases, and retentions of claims by the pueblo and the United States.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 4, 2026:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Reported by Senator Murkowski without amendment. With written report No. 119-124.
- **Jun 4, 2026:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 428.
- **Mar 5, 2025:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Feb 13, 2025:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 13, 2025:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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