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Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2025

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: Feb 13, 2025

Current Status: Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.

Latest Action: Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably. (Mar 5, 2025)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/564>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

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

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|--------------------------|---------|-----------|-------------|
| Indian Affairs Committee | Senate | Markup By | Mar 5, 2025 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Native Americans

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| 119 HR 1444 | Identical bill | Feb 18, 2025: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. |

Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2025

This bill recognizes and settles certain water rights claims in New Mexico of the pueblo of Zuni and establishes and provides funding for a related settlement trust fund. It also requires federal actions related to the Zuni Salt Lake in New Mexico.

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

The bill establishes and provides funding for the Zuni Tribe Settlement Trust Fund (and specified accounts) for purposes of carrying out this bill.

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

The bill also withdraws certain federal land in New Mexico from mineral development. The bill reserves this federal land for the following three purposes: (1) the protection of the Zuni Salt Lake and Sanctuary, (2) the protection of the quality and quantity of the Zuni Salt Lake's water supply, and (3) the protection of any cultural resources associated with the Zuni Salt Lake and Sanctuary. The Bureau of Land Management must manage this land.

The Department of the Interior must take certain land surrounding the Zuni Salt Lake into trust for the benefit of Zuni.

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