

S 953

Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 2025

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: Mar 11, 2025

Current Status: Committee on Indian Affairs. Hearings held.

Latest Action: Committee on Indian Affairs. Hearings held. (Mar 11, 2026)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/953

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Kelly, Mark [D-AZ]

Party: Democratic • State: AZ • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Gallego, Ruben [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Mar 11, 2025

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 11, 2025
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Mar 11, 2026

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Native Americans

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 HR 2025	Identical bill	Mar 11, 2025: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 2025

This bill recognizes and settles certain water rights claims in Arizona of the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe. It also provides funding for a water pipeline and three settlement trust funds.

Specifically, the bill authorizes, ratifies, and confirms a specified water rights settlement agreement entered into by the tribes, the United States, Arizona, and others, thus satisfying claims to water rights in Arizona (including with respect to the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River).

Additionally, the bill outlines the water rights of the tribes. For example, the bill allocates and assigns Colorado River water from Arizona's share to the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe.

The bill establishes and provides funding for an implementation fund account for the Bureau of Reclamation to plan, design, and construct a pipeline to deliver water to the tribes.

Further, the bill establishes and provides funding for the Navajo Nation Water Settlement Trust Fund, the Hopi Tribe Water Settlement Trust Fund, and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe Water Settlement Trust Fund.

The bill also establishes a reservation consisting of approximately 5,400 acres of land in Arizona and Utah for the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe by ratifying and confirming the treaty entered into by the Navajo Nation and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe.

The bill outlines waivers, releases, and retention of claims by the tribes and the United States under the settlement agreement.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 11, 2026:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Hearings held.
- **Mar 11, 2025:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 11, 2025:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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