

Testimony

of

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Chair, Board of Trustees  
Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation

Before the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs

of the

House Committee on Natural Resources

on

H.R. 2882, Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2023

July 12, 2023

Chair Hageman, Ranking Member Leger Fernandez, and Members of the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the employees of the Udall Foundation, I want to extend our gratitude to you and the staff of the Subcommittee for scheduling this hearing on H.R. 2882 today. I also want to extend our gratitude to Representative Ciscomani for sponsoring H.R. 2882 and to the original cosponsor Representative Stansbury.

### **Overview of the Enabling Legislation**

The Morris K. Udall Foundation was established by the U.S. Congress in 1992 as an independent executive branch agency to honor Morris K. Udall's lasting impact on this Nation's environment, public lands, and natural resources, and his support of the rights and self-governance of Native Americans and Alaska Natives. In 2009, Congress enacted legislation to also honor Stewart L. Udall for his half century of distinguished national leadership in environmental and Native American policy. The agency is known today as the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation (Udall Foundation) and is headquartered in Tucson, Arizona. The Udall Foundation's enabling legislation is codified at 20 U.S.C. §§ 5601-5609.

The Udall Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees comprised of 13 members, nine of whom are appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The other four are designated by law and include the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, the President of The University of Arizona, and the Secretaries of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Education or their designees.

H.R. 2882 amends Section 13 of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act (20 U.S.C. § 5609) to extend the authority of the Udall Foundation through Fiscal Year 2028. H.R. 2882 makes no other changes to the Act.

An extension of the Udall Foundation's authority through Fiscal Year 2028 will allow the agency to continue its Congressionally mandated mission to promote public service through research, education, and programs that foster leadership, education, collaboration, and conflict resolution in the areas of environment, public lands, Native Nations, and natural resources to encourage the continued use and appreciation of our Nation's rich resources; support the development of self-governance to strengthen Native Nations; and assist Federal agencies and others to resolve environmental conflicts.

### **Overview of the Udall Foundation's Programs**

The Udall Foundation accomplishes its mission through the following programs:

- ***John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution*** (National Center), which provides impartial collaboration, consensus-building, training, and conflict resolution services on a wide range of environmental, natural and cultural resources, Tribal, and public lands issues, conflicts, and disputes involving the Federal Government. The National Center's range of services includes consultations, assessments, process design, convening, mediation, facilitation, stakeholder engagement, Tribal consultation, and other related collaboration, consensus-building, training, and conflict resolution activities authorized by the Udall Foundation's enabling legislation.

The National Center has been involved in over 800 cases, consultations, and training programs since 1999. In a typical year, the National Center assists about 30 other Federal agencies in the resolution of environmental issues, conflicts, and disputes. It has worked in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

- ***Education Programs***, including the *Morris K. Udall and John S. McCain III Native American Graduate Fellowship in Tribal Policy* (Native American Graduate Fellowship), which is awarded annually to outstanding Native American and Alaska Native graduate students who intend to pursue advanced degrees in health care and Tribal public policy, including law and medicine; the *Native American Congressional Internship* (Internship), which is awarded annually to deserving and qualified Native American and Alaska Native undergraduate, graduate, and law students in order to provide them with practical experience with the Federal legislative process; the *Stewart L. Udall Parks in Focus® Program* (Parks in Focus®), which fosters greater understanding, appreciation, stewardship, and enjoyment of the Nation's public lands and natural resources by connecting youth to nature through photography, positive outdoor experiences, and environmental education; and the *Udall Undergraduate Scholarship*

(Scholarship), which is awarded annually to outstanding students who intend to pursue careers related to the environment, Tribal public policy, or Native health care.

The Udall Foundation has awarded \$9.975 million in Scholarships to 1,843 undergraduate students since 1996. The recipients have been from 374 colleges and universities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and 93 different Tribal Nations and Alaska Native villages. Since 1996, the Udall Foundation has provided funding to 306 Native American Congressional Interns from 134 Tribal Nations and Alaska Native villages and 107 colleges and universities, and they have served in 70 participating Congressional and Executive Branch agency offices. The Udall Foundation has also provided funding to 36 Graduate Fellows representing 20 colleges and universities since 1997, including a total of six Morris K. Udall and John S. McCain III Native American Graduate Fellowships in Tribal Policy for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years. Parks in Focus® has served 6,071 participants and provided them with 10,732 hours of activities in 11 states and 45 National Parks, Monuments, Refuges, Wilderness Areas, and Federal Public Lands.

- ***Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy*** (Udall Center), a unit of The University of Arizona under the Senior Vice President for Research, Impact, and Innovation, which supports policy-relevant interdisciplinary research, science-policy dialogues, and other endeavors that link scholarship and education with decision-making. Areas of expertise include water resources, land management, biodiversity, public health, and renewable energy, with a focus on the Southwest and U.S.-Mexico border region. The Udall Center has produced 431 publications, made 752 public presentations on environmental policy research and new conceptual approaches, and hosted over 75 science-policy meetings since 1996.
- ***Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy*** (NNI), a program of the Udall Center, which is a resource for self-determination, governance, and economic development for Native Nations. NNI's programs of policy analysis and research, education, digital resources, and Tribal and direct services are grounded in its research findings. The Udall Foundation and The University of Arizona cofounded NNI in 2001, building on the research programs of the then Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development and extending the legacies of Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall.

NNI has provided nation-building services to individuals and groups representing 65% of Federally Recognized Tribes in 35 of the Lower 48 states and to 9% of Tribes in Alaska. Over 900 Native leaders have participated in NNI's Indigenous Governance programs since 2013, and since 2014 NNI's Indigenous Governance database has had over 184,000 visitors who have reviewed over 460,000 pages of material.

- **Udall Archives** at The University of Arizona Libraries, Special Collections, which provides primary research materials and holds multiple collections relating to political and legislative figures including the papers of Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall. The collections include professional and personal papers and correspondence, legislative and administrative files, media, and memorabilia. The Udall Archives play a leading role honoring the dual legacies of Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall in partnership and ongoing collaboration with the Udall Foundation and Udall Center.

I am attaching a Fact Sheet prepared by the Udall Foundation to provide the Subcommittee and the public with more information on our programs, services, and annual funding.

### **Conclusion**

We thank the Subcommittee and the sponsors of H.R. 2882 for your time and interest in the Udall Foundation, and your support of the work Congress has directed us to undertake. We are available to provide information or to respond to questions at any time. We look forward to continuing to work with the Subcommittee and the Committee on Natural Resources in the months and years ahead.