



# SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

March 17, 2015

The Hon. Don Young, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. 538 – The Native American Energy Act.

Dear Chairman Young:

I write on behalf of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe to thank you for introducing H.R. 538, which will facilitate energy development on Indian lands by reducing the role of federal agencies and anachronistic and uneconomic legal barriers. The Tribe strongly supports H.R. 538, as it has the Indian energy legislation you have introduced in the past, and urges you to continue your efforts to address this important issue. As you know, Senator Barrasso recently introduced Indian energy legislation in the Senate, and we are hopeful that these initiatives will be enacted this year, whether separate or combined.

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe has long been a leader in tribal energy development and, like other so-called “energy tribes,” we continue to face bureaucratic barriers that unnecessarily and unfairly impede our ability to carry out even basic realty transactions. These are hurdles that our neighbors operating on state or private lands do not face, and the Tribe is therefore at a distinct disadvantage. Overly burdensome federal involvement in the Tribe’s energy development efforts undermines our sovereignty and economic prosperity.

In conclusion, thank you once again for your efforts to help our Tribe and energy tribes across Indian Country more fully realize our goal of self-determination. Please feel free to call on my office if the Southern Ute Indian Tribe can be of any assistance in this important fight. Also, the Tribal Council reiterates the invitation extended to you by tribal representatives with whom you recently visited. We urge you to come see our Reservation and learn more about our Tribe, our people, and our efforts to make progress.

Sincerely,

Clement J. Frost, Chairman  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe