

CARLYLE W. BEGAY
DISTRICT 7



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Arizona State Senate

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to communicate support for the Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014 introduced by Congressman Paul Gosar. As an Arizona State Senator representing Legislative District 7, the Hualapai Tribal headquarters reside in my district in Peach Springs, and this bill would be of great benefit to my constituents.

The Big Sandy Creek was added to the Hualapai Reservation over 100 years ago and this bill will ensure that the federal government and natural resource extraction firms will recognize the federally reserved water rights of the Tribe. Furthermore, the extraction firms using water rights will cap its water usage that it pumps from the Cofer Hot Spring and the Wikieup well field.

In addition to securing certain water rights for the Tribe, the Tribe will also benefit from two non-Federal contributions provided by these extraction firms. The goal of these financial contributions would be to support a tribal water supply study necessary for the advancement of a settlement of the Tribe's claims for Colorado River water while also allowing the Tribe to purchase and secure Colorado River water rights to help facilitate a future comprehensive settlement.

Sovereign Tribal water rights are of the utmost importance to both my constituents and myself. I am happy to reach across the aisle and work with Congressman Gosar on issues that concern all Arizona residents. I am grateful for introducing this bill and for the support of Arizona's entire Congressional delegation.

I would ask the state water leadership, and the Arizona Legislature to pass resolutions in support of this legislation. This bill is the start of many more Native people's water rights that will be settled over the next few years.

I hope I can count on your support as well. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 602-926-5862 or CBegay@AzLeg.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carlyle W. Begay".

Carlyle W. Begay
Arizona State Senator
Legislative District 7