

Business Committee Testifies Before Congress on Funding Priorities

On May 7, 2024, the Business Committee testified before Congress on the Ute Indian Tribe's funding priorities for Fiscal Year 2025; and met with Representative John Curtis and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).



Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation Chairman Dustin Klatush, Colville Business Council Secretary Cindy Marchand, and Ute Business Committee Chairman Julius T. Murray, III testify before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior on May 7, 2024.

The Business Committee testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees funding for the Department of the Interior. The Business Committee testified on the need for additional funding to support Indian energy development and law enforcement, as well as funding needed for the Ute Indian Irrigation Project. The Business Committee's testimony emphasized how funding in these areas was needed to support tribal economic development and growth. Overall, witnesses for the hearing expressed the need for significantly increased funding for law enforcement across Indian Country, especially for large land-based tribes.

Before the appropriations hearing, the Business Committee met with Representative John Curtis to discuss federal funding requests for housing and constructing a new school, as well as energy development issues. Representative Curtis informed the Business Committee that he submitted the Tribe's Community Project Funding request for housing to the House Appropriations Committee, which will provide the opportunity to be included in Fiscal Year 2025 appropriations legislation.

The Business Committee also met with the NTIA to discuss the Tribe's work to deploy broadband across the Reservation. The Business Committee requested that NTIA work to remove obstacles to broadband deployment and assist the Tribe in providing broadband to residents of the Reservation.