

## **Business Committee Attends White House Tribal Nations Summit and Meets with Congress on Tribal Rights**

On December 6-7, 2023, the Business Committee attended the White House Tribal Nations Summit in Washington, D.C. and also meet with Members of Congress to advance Tribal interests and rights. The White House Tribal Nations Summit brings together Indian tribes from across the United States and included addresses from President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. The Business Committee and tribal leaders also participated in discussions with federal agency leaders.



**Business Committee Chairman Julius T. Murray, III, Vice Chairman Christopher Tabbee, and Councilman Cleveland Murray meet with Congressman John Curtis just off the floor of the House of Representatives**

The Business Committee met with with Senator Mike Lee and Congressman John Curtis to discuss a bill that would provide funding for Great Salt Lake conservation efforts. The Business Committee sought changes to the bill to ensure that all of the projects and requirements of the Central Utah Project Completion Act, including a water storage facility for the Tribe, would be fulfilled before funding was spent to conserve resources at the Great Salt Lake. After discussions with Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee staff, the bill was eventually amended by Senator Joe Manchin, who serves as Chairman of that Committee to address much of the Tribe's concern.



**Business Committee Vice Chairman Christopher Tabbee, and Councilman Cleveland Murray meet with Congresswoman Harriet Hageman**

The Business Committee met with Representative Harriet Hageman, who chairs the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, to urge her to hold hearings that would focus on barriers to Indian energy development and the need for streamlining permitting that reduces review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Representative Hageman supports energy development as an important economic tool for tribes.



**Business Committee Chairman Julius T. Murray, III, Vice Chairman Christopher Tabbee, and Councilman Cleveland Murray meet with new Congresswoman Celeste Maloy**

The Business Committee also met with Congresswoman Celeste Maloy (R-UT) who just won a special election to replace retiring Congressman Chris Stewart (R-UT). The Business Committee discussed with the Congresswoman all the different interests and work that the Tribe does. In particular, the Business Committee sought the Congresswoman’s support for permitting reform reducing barriers to broadband deployment.



**Business Committee Vice Chairman Christopher Tabbee, and Councilman Cleveland Murray meet with Congressman Raul Ruiz**

The Business Committee also met with a number of Congressional Representatives and their staff to continue to seek legislation that would “fix” the Supreme Court’s recent decisions in the *Castro-Huerta* and *Arizona v. Navajo Nation* cases. In both cases, the Court issued disastrous decisions upsetting more than 100 years of federal Indian law. Also in both cases, Justice Neil Gorsuch issued dissenting opinions saying that Congress needed to take action to correct these decisions.

The Business Committee provided Congressmen Tom Cole (R-OK), Raul Ruiz (D-CA), and Congresswomen Mary Peltola (D-AK) and Melanie Stansbury (D-NM) with draft legislation to “fix” these ongoing threats to Indian Country.

The Business Committee also met with House Minority Whip Congresswoman Katherin Clark and Congressman Ruiz to remind them of the importance of restoring Tribal homelands within the Uncompahgre Reservation. The Business Committee stressed the importance of restoring lands to the Tribe that were wrongfully taken.



**Business Committee Chairman Julius T. Murray, III, Vice Chairman Christopher Tabbee, and Councilman Cleveland Murray meet with BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning and Deputy Director Nada Wolff Culver**

To end the week, the Business Committee joined with the other Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition Tribes to meet with the Director and Deputy Director of the Bureau of Land Management. The Business Committee and other tribes discussed finalizing the Bears Ears National Monument Management Plan. The Business Committee also met separately with the Director and Deputy Director to discuss trust restoration of lands within the Uncompahgre Reservation as well as incorporating Tribal knowledge and expertise in the management of those lands.