

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
1236 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Majority Leader Steny Hoyer  
1705 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Hoyer,

We are writing to request the immediate passage of S. 886, which provides desperately needed funding for vital water supply projects in Indian Country. Specifically, S. 886 authorizes the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act, the Aamodt Litigation Settlement Completion Act, and a study authorization to advance the Kickapoo Tribe's water settlement.

As you are aware, Indian Country, and especially the Navajo Nation, has been devastated by COVID-19 in large part because of the lack of safe drinking water for essential preventative measures, such as hand washing. On the Navajo Reservation, nearly 40 percent of the population lacks running water and/or adequate sanitation in their homes. The Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act would work to address this issue by providing approximately \$220 million in funding for drinking water projects on the Reservation.

S. 886 addresses desperate drinking water needs in Indian Country and enjoys broad, bipartisan support. As a result, the Senate passed S. 886 by unanimous consent on June 4, 2020. Despite broad support and unanimous Senate passage, the House has not yet scheduled S. 886 for consideration on the floor.

Immediate and critical relief for the Navajo Nation, Aamodt parties, and the Kickapoo Tribe is on the line. We are concerned that if S. 886 does not pass this year, Indian Country will be further disadvantaged as it tries to stamp out COVID-19. The Navajo Nation, the Aamodt parties, and the Kickapoo Tribe each have requested that the House immediately pass S. 886 as passed by the Senate. (Letters of support from the tribes are attached to this letter.) S. 886 can and should move immediately.

Ultimately, failing to move S. 886 or sending it back to the Senate for additional action further delays the relief so desperately needed by these tribes. We respectfully request that you place S. 886 on the suspension calendar for final passage as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Ben McAdams  
Member of Congress



Mitt Romney  
U.S. Senator

Cc: House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Raúl Grijalva