



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE, PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ, VICE PRESIDENT

October 5, 2015

Hon. Rob Bishop
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
123 Canon HOB, Washington, D.C.

Hon. Raul Grijalva
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
1511 Longworth HOB, Washington, D.C.

Hon. Don Young
Chairman
Subcommittee on Indian &
Alaska Native Affairs
2314 Rayburn, HOB, Washington, D.C.

Hon. Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Ranking Member
1319 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: House Consideration of the Native American Energy Act (H.R. 538)

Dear Members of the U.S. House of Representatives:

The Navajo Nation strongly supports the Native American Energy Act (H.R. 538) and urges swift passage in the House of Representatives.

This bill streamlines the federal appraisal and mineral leasing requirements, thereby helping our people regain governance over resources on our own lands. In particular, Section 8 of the bill authorizes the Nation to negotiate and enter mineral leases without the time and monetary cost for review and approval by the Interior Secretary for actions on our own lands. As you may know, the current leasing approval process is rife with delays and can serve as a major disincentive for energy and job development in Indian Country.

Thank you for considering support for H.R. 538. If you have questions, please contact Jackson Brossy, Executive Director, Navajo Nation Washington Office at (202) 682-7390.

Respectfully,

THE NAVAJO NATION

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Russell Begaye". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Russell Begaye, President