

**Statement of the Honorable Davis Filfred
Navajo Nation Council
Thursday, June 19, 2008**

Good morning Honorable Chairman Rahall, honorable members of the committee. I am Davis Filfred, Navajo Utah Commission Chair, and Aneth, Red Mesa, & Mexican Water Chapters Council Delegate. I have a Navajo Nation Intergovernmental Relations Committee Resolution and Position Statement.

The beneficiaries are concerned about Navajo Nation being appointed as a trustee. They are afraid that Navajo Nation might change the allocation, change the beneficiaries, or divert trust money elsewhere. It is therefore important, and this is consistent with our position statement that federal legislation

maintains the status quo. Federal legislation should ensure that beneficiaries remain the same and that 37 ½ percent of royalties continue to go to the beneficiaries and that beneficiaries have local decision making and control over disbursement. It is also important to set aside monies in order to grow the trust fund.

My constituents are very concerned they are suffering higher environmental costs and we breathe the polluted air and drink the contaminated water and the EPA are not doing anything about it. My constituents want to receive 100% of the royalty in order to deal with these concerns. While this may not be the right solution, special monies should be specifically allocated to Aneth to mitigate environmental impacts and to develop needed infrastructure for Aneth Chapter.

Although it is important to minimize disruption of services happening now under the Utah Sunset Act, we need to make sure that this process is thoughtful and orderly and that the best interest of the beneficiaries are always the priority. Thank you.