

**Statement of Chairwoman Grace F. Napolitano  
Water and Power Subcommittee Legislative Hearings on H.R.  
883, H.R. 6754, H.R. 6768, and H.R. 6992  
Thursday, September 25, 2008**

We have many different bills before us today. As you may know, this is possibly the last legislative hearing of this Congress and to date, neither the Subcommittee nor the Full Committee have any markups planned. I hope this hearing will serve as our effort to begin a legislative history that we can carry with us to the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

First we have HR 883, a bill that would rehabilitate the Angostura Unit of the Pick Sloan project in South Dakota and create a trust fund for the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Welcome President Yellow Bird Steele. I am looking forward to getting some clarification from you on questions I have regarding this bill.

We also have two Indian water rights related legislation today. The first, H.R. 6754, loans the White Mountain Apache Tribe \$9.8 million dollars for the construction of the Miner Flat dam. There have been concerns expressed about how this bill fits into the larger settlement and the timing of moving this measure given that the Bureau's feasibility report is not final. Welcome Chairman Lupe. The next bill is H.R. 6768, a bill that would settle the Claims of the Pueblo Nambe, Pueblo de Pojojaque Pueblo de San Ildefonso, Pueblo de Tesuque and the Taos Pueblo. Welcome

Chairman Dorame and Councilmember Cordova. I appreciate your willingness to negotiate in good faith with the Administration regarding waiver language.

Finally, we have Title Transfer legislation before us today, introduced by my friend and Ranking Member Cathy McMorris Rodgers that will benefit the American people by aiding the goal of more efficient water management. This bill would streamline the transfer of simple and uncomplicated Bureau of Reclamation properties to state and local water entities. I have some concerns about some of the specifics in this bill and I look forward to working in a bipartisan manner with my colleague to address these.