

Testimony

of

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Chair, Board of Trustees  
Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation

Before the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States

of the

House Committee on Natural Resources

on

H.R. 5715, to Amend the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act

March 31, 2022

Chairman Leger Fernandez, Vice Ranking Member Obernolte, and Members of the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States, on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the employees of the Udall Foundation, I want to extend our gratitude to you and the staff of the Subcommittee for scheduling this hearing on H.R. 5715 today. I also want to extend our gratitude to Chairman Grijalva for sponsoring H.R. 5715.

### **Overview of the Enabling Legislation**

The Morris K. Udall Foundation was established by the U.S. Congress in 1992 as an independent executive branch agency to honor Morris K. Udall's lasting impact on this Nation's environment, public lands, and natural resources, and his support of the rights and self-governance of Native Americans and Alaska Natives. In 2009 Congress enacted legislation to also honor Stewart L. Udall for his half century of distinguished national leadership in environmental and Native American policy. The agency is known today as the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation (Udall Foundation) and is headquartered in Tucson, Arizona. The Udall Foundation's enabling legislation is codified at 20 U.S.C. 5601-5609.

The Udall Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees comprised of 13 members, nine of whom are appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The other four are designated by law and include the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, the President of the University of Arizona, and the Secretaries of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Education or their designees.

H.R. 5715 amends Section 13 of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act (20 U.S.C. 5609) for two purposes:

- To authorize appropriations to the Udall Foundation through Fiscal Year 2029; and
- To specify that \$5,000 in annual appropriations to the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund may be used for reception and representation expenses.

An authorization of appropriations to the Udall Foundation through Fiscal Year 2029 will allow the agency to continue its Congressionally mandated mission to foster leadership, education, collaboration, and conflict resolution in the areas of environment, public lands, Native Nations, and natural resources; support the development of self-governance to strengthen Native Nations; and assist Federal agencies and others to resolve environmental conflicts.

Authority for the Udall Foundation to utilize \$5,000 in annual appropriations to the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund for reception and representation expenses will allow the agency to increase the appropriate and effective use of environmental collaboration and conflict resolution principles across the Federal government, in accordance with the 2012 OMB-CEQ Joint Memorandum on Environmental Collaboration and Conflict Resolution.

### **Overview of the Udall Foundation's Programs**

The Udall Foundation accomplishes its mission through the following programs:

- ***John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution*** (National Center), which provides impartial collaboration, consensus-building, training, and conflict resolution services on a wide range of environmental, natural and cultural resources, Tribal, and public lands issues, conflicts, and disputes involving the Federal Government. The National Center's range of services includes consultations, assessments, process design, convening, mediation, facilitation, stakeholder engagement, Tribal consultation, and other related collaboration, consensus-building, training, and conflict resolution activities authorized by the Udall Foundation's enabling legislation.

The National Center has been involved in about 650 cases and consultations and provided about 150 training programs since 1999. In a typical year, the National Center assists about 30 other Federal agencies in the resolution of environmental disputes. It has worked in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

- ***Education Programs***, including the *Morris K. Udall and John S. McCain III Native American Graduate Fellowship in Tribal Policy* (Native American Graduate Fellowship), which is awarded annually to outstanding Native American and Alaska Native graduate students who intend to pursue advanced degrees in health care and Tribal public policy, including law and medicine; the *Native*

*American Congressional Internship* (Internship), which is awarded annually to deserving and qualified Native American and Alaska Native undergraduate, graduate, and law students in order to provide them with practical experience with the Federal legislative process; the *Stewart L. Udall Parks in Focus® Program* (Parks in Focus®), which fosters greater understanding, appreciation, stewardship, and enjoyment of the Nation's public lands and natural resources by connecting youth to nature through photography, positive outdoor experiences, and environmental education; and the *Udall Undergraduate Scholarship* (Scholarship), which is awarded annually to outstanding students who intend to pursue careers related to the environment, Tribal public policy, or Native health care.

The Udall Foundation has awarded \$9.59 million in scholarships to 1,788 undergraduate students. The recipients have been from 374 colleges and universities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and 88 different Tribal Nations and Alaska Native villages. The Udall Foundation has provided funding to 295 Native American Interns from 131 Tribal Nations and Alaska Native villages and 106 colleges and universities, and they have served in 68 participating Congressional and Executive Branch agency offices. The Udall Foundation has also provided funding to 33 Graduate Fellows representing 19 colleges and universities, including three Morris K. Udall and John S. McCain III Graduate Fellows in Tribal Policy for the 2021-2022 academic year. Parks in Focus® has served 5,577 participants and provided them with 10,280 hours of activities in 11 states and 45 National Parks, Monuments, Refuges, Wilderness Areas, and Public Lands.

- ***Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy*** (Udall Center), a unit of The University of Arizona under the Senior Vice President for Research, Impact, and Innovation, which supports policy-relevant interdisciplinary research, science-policy dialogues, and other endeavors that link scholarship and education with decision-making. Areas of expertise include water resources, land management, biodiversity, public health, and renewable energy, with a focus on the Southwest and U.S.-Mexico border region.

On average, the Udall Center leverages nearly \$2 in external funding for environmental public policy research for every \$1 in Udall Foundation funding. The Udall Center has produced 412 publications and made 702 public presentations on environmental policy research and new conceptual approaches.

- ***Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy*** (NNI), a program of the Udall Center, which is a resource for self-determination, governance, and economic development for Native Nations. NNI's programs of policy analysis and research, education, digital resources, and Tribal and direct services are grounded in its research findings. The Udall Foundation and The University of Arizona cofounded NNI in 2001, building on the research programs

of the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development and extending the legacies of Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall.

NNI has provided nation-building services to individuals and groups representing 62% of Federally Recognized Tribes in 33 of the Lower 48 states as well as to several Native entities in Alaska. About 601 Native leaders have participated in NNI's Indigenous Governance programs since 2013. Since 2014, NNI's Indigenous Governance database has had over 149,000 visitors who have reviewed over 398,000 pages of material.

- ***Udall Archives*** at The University of Arizona Libraries, Special Collections, which provides primary research materials and holds multiple collections relating to political and legislative figures including the papers of Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall. The collections include professional and personal papers and correspondence, legislative and administrative files, media, and memorabilia. The Udall Archives play a leading role honoring the dual legacies of Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall in partnership and ongoing collaboration with the Udall Foundation and Udall Center.

I am attaching a Fact Sheet prepared by the Udall Foundation to provide the Subcommittee and the public with more information on our programs, services, and annual funding.

## **Conclusion**

We thank the Subcommittee and the sponsors of H.R. 5715 for your time and interest in the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation, and your support of the work Congress has directed us to undertake. We are available to provide information or to respond to questions at any time. We look forward to continuing to work with the Subcommittee and the Congress in the months and years ahead.