

Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe + American Indian Affairs Interim Study
Committee

August 8th

2:00-2:30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81332852312?pwd=JPRftKFHaekXltT1BQgd561VJ1tUj.1>

Participants:

- **Representatives: Majority Leader Duran, Rep. Joseph, Rep. Weinberg**
- **Senators: Sen. Roberts, Simpson**
- **Chairman Heart, Ute Mountain Ute**
- **Amara Hobbs, House Dem Staff**
- **Shannon Schell, Senate Dem Staff**
- **Gina Kelble, House Dem Staff**
- **Bre, Legislative Aide**
- **Nate Lewis, Legislative Aide**

2:05pm- Majority Leader Duran brought the meeting to order and reminded members that the meeting is on notice and minutes will be taken. Thanked Chairman Heart, committee members and staff who joined.

2:06pm - Introductions of members and staff.

2:08pm - Chairman Heart thanked members and staff for scheduling today's meeting and previous legislation that has moved through the legislative body. Stated that the Ute Mountain Ute are thankful for the current relationship and communication, and spoke to the work of the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs (CCIA).

2:10pm - Majority Leader Duran recapped issues Tribal Members mentioned at previous Ute Mountain Ute presentation on July 30th.

- Water Rights
- Uranium Waste from Mine
- Accessibility to Healthcare
- Affordable Housing
- Jurisdiction over Criminal Cases for non-tribal members
- Increases law enforcement staffing
- BEST funding for K-12 Charter School, new facility
- Transportation of materials through tribal lands

- Contracts
- ICWA, Child Welfare

2:12pm - Chairman Heart spoke to water rights and their need to receive full allocation of their water, as well as the water state compacts which are causing challenges.

- Roberts: What has been your engagement with someone like Becky Mitchell?
- Charman Heart: We met yesterday in Igancio with both states and Tribes (Upper River Basin) and worked with the Bureau of Reclamation regarding guidelines and how to find a way to obtain those water rights.

2:19pm - Chairman Heart mentioned the nuclear power plant that is being proposed in eastern Colorado, and spoke about the White Mesa Mill in Utah as it's the only wet mill in the whole country. Discussed contamination issues from the mill and the proposed additional nuclear power plant that has caused transportation of waste issues.

- Sen Simpson: Have you been seeing an increase in traffic in trucks moving the materials through the reservation?
 - Chairman Heart: Yes, we have passed a resolution to combat this. We have talked to the Bureau of Indian Affairs about regulation. Ute Mountain Ute does not have enough law enforcement officers to cover this resolution especially for the White Mesa area.

2:26pm - Chairman Heart stated he would like to utilize state medicaid dollars to do a pilot project on Ute Mountain Ute land to take a look at tribal members who need dialysis or have diabetes to look at foot care and assess community support needs. Chairman Heart also mentioned hunting and fishing waiver, and would like to waive state fee as tribal members should be able to hunt and fish on their own land. Discussed challenges with lack of consultation when it comes to state issues such as Sports Betting and the wolf reintroduction. Further mentioned that the legislature should propose that public schools need to add more American Indian history into curriculum.

2:32pm - ML Duran thanked Chairman Heart for specifying legislative priorities for Ute Mountain Ute and spoke about details moving forward for the future meeting.

2:33pm - Simpson mentioned the challenges of the intersection of 491 and Whitewash which is a state highway that turns into a BIA road.

- Chairman Heart provided insight into the challenges with the intersection and their communication with CDOT, hoping for more action as they continue to have fatalities.

2:34 - ML Duran thanked Chairman Heart, committee members and staff for joining the meeting and gave a reminder about the upcoming meeting on August 14th, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35pm