

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 10, 2005

The Honorable Joe Shirley, Jr.
President
Navajo Nation
P.O. Box 9000
Window Rock, AZ 86515

The Honorable Lawrence T. Morgan
Speaker
Navajo Nation Council
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Jim Cleary
President
Western Pipeline Group
El Paso Corporation
Two North Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

Gentlemen:

We write to encourage you to negotiate and reach an agreement regarding the extension of the El Paso Natural Gas pipeline easement across the Navajo Nation.

We are told that the easement on Navajo trust land includes approximately 900 miles of pipelines and six compressor stations traversing northeastern Arizona and northwestern New Mexico. With the current 20-year easement set to expire in just six months, we urge the parties to make every effort to achieve a final agreement that reflects your own best interests, avoids protracted litigation, and does not hold hostage energy consumers in Arizona and California.

Failure to reach agreement would have serious repercussions for all. As you are aware, these negotiations affect not only the Navajo Nation and El Paso Natural Gas Corporation, but also a great many people in Arizona and throughout the southwestern United States. We hope you are able to resolve this matter.

Let us be clear that we are not favoring either party in this dispute. We are urging that the matter be resolved in a fair and equitable manner.

Sincerely,


John McCain




Jon Kyl