

Exhibit 17

TESTIMONY OF LESTER RANDALL, CHAIRMAN, KICKAPOO TRIBE IN KANSAS, IN
SUPPORT OF S. 2154, THE KICKAPOO TRIBE IN KANSAS WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT ACT

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS UNITED STATES SENATE
JULY 18, 2018



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

APR 06 2018

The Honorable Lester Randall
Chairman
Kickapoo Tribe
824 111th Drive
Horton, Kansas 66439

Dear Chairman Randall:

The Department of the Interior's Working Group on Indian Water Settlements (Working Group) met on February 14, 2018, to consider the Kickapoo Tribe's (Tribe) request for the appointment of a Federal negotiation team. The Working Group, after carefully considering the request and the level of information currently available, decided to appoint a Federal Indian Water Rights Negotiation Team to negotiate a comprehensive settlement of the Tribe's water rights claims.

We are currently working with the bureaus and agencies that will be represented on the team and we are pleased to announce that Scott Bergstrom, Office of the Solicitor, has been appointed as the Chairman of the team. We will notify you when we are completed with the appointment process.

The Department of the Interior, through the Federal team, looks forward to working with the Tribe, the State of Kansas, and other local parties in moving towards a negotiated settlement that will resolve the Tribe's water rights claims in Kansas.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at Pamela_Williams@ios.doi.gov or by phone at (202) 262-0291.

Sincerely,

Pamela Williams, Director
Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office