

Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell
Chairman, Committee on Indian Affairs
United States Senate
Legislative Hearing on Indian Energy (S.424, S.522)

March 19, 2003

Good afternoon and welcome to the Committee's hearing on two Indian energy bills: S.424, introduced on February 14th by Senator Bingaman, and S.522, which I introduced on March 5th.

Within hours our nation will be embroiled in a major ground war in the Middle East, and in recent weeks world oil prices have soared to \$40 per barrel. I think America must "kick the habit" of depending on foreign energy and start producing more of its own energy.

One answer to our energy future is in domestic production and I am not just talking about ANWR.

Indian-owned energy resources are still largely undeveloped: 1.81 million acres are being explored or in production. 15 million more acres of energy resources are undeveloped.

There are 90 tribes that own significant energy resources – both renewable and non-renewable – and they want to develop them.

Today we will hear from the Bush Administration and Tribal witnesses and I welcome all to the Committee.

In the interests of time, I will place my full statement in the Record.

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