

The Great Spirit created Man and Woman in his own image. In doing so, both were created as equals. Both depending on each other in order to survive. Great respect was shown for each other; in doing so, happiness and contentment was achieved then, as it should be now.

The connecting of the Heart makes them one person; for happiness or contentment cannot be achieved without each other.

The Cornucopia represented by the purple in the middle ground, where the people were created. These rhyons are Sacred, and should be so treated at all times.

The Resurrection is pictured in respect of the land that is ours. Treat it well.



The Resurrection of our heritage and the heritage of our children yet unborn, No good to our land and it will continue to be good to us.

The Sun is the symbol of life, without it nothing is possible - plants don't grow - there will be no life - nothing. The Sun also represents the dawn of the Hualapai people. Through hard work, determination and education, everything is possible and we are assured bigger and brighter days ahead.

The birds in the middle represent the coyote and other animals which were here, before us.

The Green around the symbol are pine trees, representing our name Hualapai - PEOPLE OF THE PINE TREES.

## HUALAPAI NATION OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

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Written comments of the Hualapai Tribe addressing Section 1813 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005

The comments of the Hualapai Tribe are general in nature and written to respond to the four areas of study that Section 1813 addresses. These four areas were identified in a letter to tribal leaders from James Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary Department of the Interior and Kevin Kolevar, Director, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.

For the past year, as a result of the Energy Act of 2005, Indian Tribes have been concerned with the attempt by energy companies to inhibit their ability to negotiate right of way leases across their lands.

The Hualapai Tribe strongly feels that the study of Indian Right of Way leases should have never been included in the Energy Act of 2005 because its purpose was based solely on the impasse between the Navajo Tribe and the El Paso Natural Gas Company.

The Hualapai Tribe considers the efforts of the El Paso Natural Gas Company in this matter as 'single interest', although they have garnered support from other energy companies, the rhetoric of threatened 'National Security' is a veiled effort to acquire leases on Indian land as cheaply as possible. What else is new?

Historically tribal lands and rights to that land have been obligated or sold by agents of the Federal Government for a pittance of their value and often by duplicity between a federal agent and the party who benefited monetarily. That was the era of a paternalistic federal government; Are Indian Tribes once again being subjugated and subjected to the belief that the Federal Government knows what is best for Indian Tribes?

The Hualapai Tribe believes that the Federal Government is reliving a past that proved to be the death knoll for many American Indian Tribes who were unable to speak against practices such as granting right of way leases in perpetuity.

The Hualapai Tribe is mindful that the Department of Interior and the Department of Energy have a Trust Responsibility to American Indian Tribes and they are obligated to ensure that tribes like the Hualapai Tribe are enabled to sustain achievement of Tribal Sovereignty and Self-Governance through Self-Determination.

If Tribes like Hualapai are not allowed to sit at the negotiating table with energy and utility companies who want to encumber their lands; how can we ever be able to determine our future?

In the public comment period at the meeting on August 25, 2006, in Salt Lake City, Utah, the Hualapai Tribes' comments were centered on our tribes' experience in the 'ways of capitalism'. Hualapai is not a wealthy tribe. We are similar to many tribes who do not enjoy a tax base. We are dependent on revenue that we generate through tourism and yes even right of way leases.

We have begun to stand on our feet and we have begun to chart our own destiny despite being hobbled by past federal paternalism. We certainly do not want a return of federal paternalism that only weighed heavy on our shoulders and brought many of us to our knees.

The Department of Interior and the Department of Energy must come to the realization that many tribes like Hualapai are the best representatives of their position in the negotiating process.

To the surprise of many, we have proven that we can be fair and reasonable negotiators. In 1993 we negotiated a lease with an energy company for an optimum 20 year period. The compensation to the tribe was superior to the original lease that was negotiated with the assistance of the BIA. The atmosphere associated with this process was one of 'goodwill' unlike the Navajo/El Paso situation that has odored the air with distrust for American Indian Tribes.

The undesirable element of the rhetoric aimed at convincing the federal agencies to intercede on behalf of the energy companies has fomented a slippery slope that tribes and the federal agencies are balancing upon. A misstep will surely move tribes and the federal agencies back to the Tribal Termination Policy of 1953.

The Hualapai Tribe lends its voice to the many that are opposed to the subjugation and paternalism of a bygone era in American History.

The Department of the Interior and the Department of Energy must ensure that we do not revisit this era by putting an end to a process that will prove to be destructive to both tribes and energy companies.

The Hualapai Tribe unites with other tribes who are opposed to this cause by saying that we will not relinquish the moral and financial gains we have made over the past quarter century.

It is now the trust obligation of the federal government to ensure that a proud people are not forced to their knees by the avarice of energy companies who are quite simply trying to get 'something for nothing'.

Charles Vaughn

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Charles Vaughn', written in dark ink.

Chairman, Hualapai Tribal Council