



Rep. Trent Franks Honored for Work to Secure Arizona's Fair Share of U.S. Energy Assistance Funds

For Immediate Release

November 1, 2016

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SCOTTSDALE – Several Arizona utilities last week met with tribal, state and civic leaders, and other community partners to discuss crucial energy issues facing Arizona, and to honor U.S. Rep. Trent Franks for his efforts to secure federal funding for limited-income families.

Members of Arizona Utility Partners (AZUP), including Arizona Public Service, Electrical District No. 3, Global Water Resources Inc., Salt River Project, Southwest Gas Corporation, Tucson Electric Power and UniSource Energy Services convened Friday at the Scottsdale Resort at McCormick Ranch to discuss Arizona's continuing fight to secure a fair share of U.S. Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds. LIHEAP funds help pay home heating and cooling costs for eligible Arizona households, especially those with seniors, preschoolers and disabled residents.

For more than a decade, Arizona and other states have been shortchanged by annual U.S. budget riders embedded in funding legislation for government programs. This year alone, the practice will divert \$12 million in LIHEAP funds away from Arizona, where struggling families are in need of financial assistance. This practice is evidenced by the small share of Arizona households receiving LIHEAP funds. In 2014, LIHEAP provided assistance to 20 percent of eligible U.S. households but just 5 percent of eligible Arizona households.

Fortunately, Arizona's congressional delegation has flagged this unfair diversion and is urging appropriators to end the practice, which violates the letter and spirit of LIHEAP's enabling law.

Rep. Franks, who organized the bipartisan appeal in Congress, addressed the 2016 Arizona Utility Partners Summit in Scottsdale on Friday and was honored for his ongoing work to secure Arizona's full, fair share of LIHEAP funds.

Congressman Franks was joined in signing the letter supporting AZUP's efforts by Arizona's eight other House members, including Reps. Ruben Gallego, Raul Grijalva, Paul Gosar, Ann Kirkpatrick, Martha McSally, Matt Salmon, Kyrsten Sinema and David Schweikert, who were also recognized for their contributions.

About AZUP: Arizona Utility Partners, which is made up of Arizona Public Service, Electrical District No. 3, Global Water Resources Inc., Salt River Project, Southwest Gas Corporation, Tucson Electric Power and UniSource Energy Services, works collaboratively to share the expertise of our industries for the benefit of the communities we serve. We agree that by working as a united coalition, we can more effectively assist our community partners and customers in understanding how our companies operate and how they can tap into the services we provide.