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FPM Helps Ute Indian Tribe Obtain Congressional Passage of Land Exchange Legislation

On July 9, 2014, the United States Senate passed the Ute Indian Tribe's "SITLA Land Exchange" bill and now the bill is headed to the President's desk to be signed into law. The bill, H.R. 356, already passed the House on May 15, 2013. Senate passage was the final step.

Over the last three years, Fredericks Peebles and Morgan LLP (FPM) navigated the difficult environment on Capitol Hill to obtain passage of this important legislation. The bill will return lands to tribal ownership, promote tribal energy development, and protect an environmentally and culturally significant area on the Tribe's Reservation. FPM worked closely with the Tribe's Business Committee, the Utah Congressional Delegation, House and Senate Committee staff and the Utah School and Trust Lands Administration to inform members of Congress about the benefits of the bill, obtain hearings on the bill, keep the bill moving through Committees, and overcome political differences preventing most legislation from passing Congress.

In this political environment, passage of the Tribe's "SILTA Land Exchange" bill is a major accomplishment. FPM is pleased that it could help the Tribe pass this legislation.