



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

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Chairman Baker Attends Opening of the 75th Session of the Colorado General Assembly

Southern Ute Indian Reservation – Chairman Melvin J. Baker was invited by President of the Senate, James Coleman to provide remarks during the opening session for the 75th session of Colorado General Assembly this morning at the State Capitol, highlighting the shared priorities of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the State of Colorado in upholding shared values:

“On behalf of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, I am pleased to welcome our State Legislators back for the next session of the Colorado General Assembly. Since time immemorial, we have maintained a deep connection and stewardship for the beautiful land and natural resources that we all cherish,” shared Chairman Baker.

“Our culture remains rich and vibrant, despite a challenging history. Through foresight, financial planning, and technical expertise, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe is a leader across Indian Country and a unique partner for the State. Our strong government-to-government relationship with the State, founded on mutual respect, a shared understanding, and a steadfast commitment to honoring the treaties and agreements made with our ancestors – all with the shared goal of a brighter future – has been a model. It is a relationship that we are continually working on and improving.”

During the ceremony, Chairman Baker addressed the Senate, sharing the rich history and vibrant culture of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe with state legislators, as well as the Tribe's unwavering commitment to protecting its sovereignty and emphasized the critical importance of maintaining a strong government-to-government relationship with the State of Colorado. The Chairman underscored that we are a sovereign nation, and we will continue to exercise our inherent rights, protect our lands, and safeguard our culture for generations to come. Chairman Baker urged the General Assembly to always be mindful of the two sovereign Tribes within the State.

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