

Apr 10th, 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Native American forum on nuclear issues presenter biography

Joe Kennedy

Chairman of the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/nafni>



Part of the [American Politics Commons](#), [Environmental Health and Protection Commons](#), [Environmental Policy Commons](#), [Indigenous, Indian, and Aboriginal Law Commons](#), [Natural Resources Management and Policy Commons](#), and the [Sustainability Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Kennedy, Joe, "Native American forum on nuclear issues presenter biography" (2008). *Native American Forum on Nuclear Issues*. 6.

<https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/nafni/2008/april10/6>

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Scholarship@UNLV with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this Event in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself.

This Event has been accepted for inclusion in Native American Forum on Nuclear Issues by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship@UNLV. For more information, please contact digitalscholarship@unlv.edu.

Hello I am Joe Kennedy and I am the Chairman of the Timbisha Shoshone of which is part of the Western Shoshone Nation, I sit on several other non-profit organizational boards, such as:

- The Tupippuh (Homeland) Project where our mission is to protect all life within our homelands.
- The Western Shoshone Defense Project where our mission is to affirm Newe (Western Shoshone) jurisdiction within Newe Sogobia (Western Shoshone homelands) by protecting, preserving, and restoring Newe rights and lands for present and future generations based on Newe cultural and spiritual traditions.
- Toiyabe Indian Health Project, Inc. The mission of the Toiyabe Indian Health Project (TIHP) is to improve and maintain healthy individuals, families and Indian communities while fostering Tribal sovereignty and cultural values.

I also serve on the Western Shoshone National Council (WSNC) which is the Traditional Government of the Western Shoshone Nation consisting of delegates from the Western Shoshone communities.

Under my term as Chairman for the Timbisha Shoshone, we have had some success.

1. We filed under the Urgent Action and Early Warning Procedure to a United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Geneva Switzerland. This was the first time a United Nations committee issued a full decision against the U.S. in respect to its highly controversial Indian Law and Policy. Some of you may ask what this means to the Timbisha Shoshone, this decision affects not only us but all Indigenous Peoples around the world in many ways. The U.S Government and its Government agencies have to treat the Western Shoshone and other Indigenous Peoples of the United States with the respect that we all deserve.
2. Filed a lawsuit against the United States halting the detonation of 700 tons of high explosives code named by the Defendants as Divine Strake. This lawsuit was filed by Bob Hager who did not charge the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe any fees. This detonation was to take place at the Nevada Test Site (NTS), in which a mushroom cloud would rise approximately 10,000 feet into the air and be visible from Las Vegas N.V.
3. Received Affected Status on June 29th 2007 to the Yucca Mountain project (YMP) in which we are the first Indian Nation or Tribe to get this recognition from the U.S. Government.
4. Barbara Durham, Grace Goad and I traveled to Sacramento California where we pushed and received a resolution of support from the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) for the affected status to the Yucca Mountain Project (YMP).
5. I went to Denver Colorado to the NCAI conference in November 2007 and received a resolution of support for Yucca Mountain for ten million in funding, for fiscal year 2009.

I have traveled internationally to Geneva Switzerland and Guatemala in Central America on my Western Shoshone Passport and not on a U.S. Passport. There are only a very select few Indian nations that travel out of the U.S. on their own passports, while I am the first from any Indian nation to travel to Central America. It was a big honor to be invited to go abroad to these countries on a Western Shoshone passport and to receive all the positive responses from indigenous peoples and non-indigenous peoples around the world. It was also an honor to be invited to speak on my Western Shoshone passport travels, like the California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB) in Reno N.V; the Indigenous environmental network (IEN) also funded me to go to Anchorage Alaska.

Sincerely,

Joe Kennedy