Holland & Hart



PRACTICES

Federal Affairs
Environmental
Environmental Litigation
Federal Lands Permitting
Water Resources

INDUSTRIES

Energy and Resources
Oil and Gas
Conventional Power
Renewable Energy and Storage
Mining

EDUCATION

American University, Washington College of Law, J.D., 2021

Syracuse University, B.A., 2012

BAR ADMISSIONS

Washington, DC

Paul Babbitt

Associate & Director of Federal Affairs

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Paul leverages his deep Congressional policy experience to help a variety of clients navigate Capitol Hill and the regulatory landscape by sharing his knowledge and connections to help clients achieve their goals.

He counsels energy, natural resources, and agricultural clients on federal policy matters, with particular emphasis on public lands, tribal affairs, and conservation programs. Paul helps clients navigate relationships across Washington, DC.

Paul brings ten years of Congressional experience advising members of both the Senate and House of Representatives on energy, environmental, and agricultural policy matters. Paul is adept at working with stakeholders to advance policy objectives from concept to legislative drafts to bill passage and implementation. His draws on insider knowledge of Congressional operations and federal administrative procedure to help clients navigate agency rulemaking, develop legislative solutions, and build strategic coalitions to achieve their objectives.

Before joining Holland & Hart, Paul served as Counsel and Senior Legislative Assistant to Senator Mark Kelly. Paul worked on the House Agriculture Committee, and as Staff Director and Counsel for the House Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, where he negotiated legislative matters including the Inflation Reduction Act and worked with stakeholders regarding implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill. Prior to the committee, Paul advised Arizona members of Congress Tom O'Halleran and Ann Kirkpatrick on matters affecting federal agencies, states, tribes, and private industry.

EXPERIENCE

Paul counsels clients on:

- Federal legislative and regulatory strategy
- Public lands policy and permitting
- Tribal government relations and Indian law
- Agricultural and conservation program
- Natural resources development
- Environmental policy and rulemaking
- Congressional investigations and oversight
- Agency rulemakings and administrative procedures

CLIENT RESULTS

Policy Achievements

Assisted with passage of Federal legislation authorizing implementation of the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP).

Achieved transfer of Federal jurisdiction to allow development of a pumped-hydro storage facility on Federal land.

Secured 20-year stewardship contracting authority and the expansion of Good Neighbor Authority to tribes and counties, to promote forest restoration.

Addressed boundary issues with both National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service through statutory changes.

Successfully amended an Indian Water Rights Settlement to extend enforceability date and provide funding flexibility.

Successfully secured congressionally directed spending requests that addressed water conflicts.

Worked effectively with Interior officials on key drought policy and funding, including the Lower Colorado River Basin System Efficiency and Conservation Program.

Staffed the 2018 Farm Bill Conference Committee.

PUBLICATIONS

"EPA Proposes to Hand Utah the Keys to Class VI Carbon Storage Permitting," *Environmental Law Update*, October 23, 2026

"Colorado Assumes Permitting Authority for Class VI Geologic Sequestration Wells," *Environmental Law Update*, October 19, 2026

"New WOTUS Proposal Would Further Shrink Federal Jurisdiction Over Streams and Wetlands," *Water Law Update*, September 15, 2026

"House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Advances $580 Billion BUILD America 250 Act," *Federal Affairs Update*, May 22, 2026

"Breaking China's Stranglehold: Trump's $12B Critical Minerals Stockpile," *Federal Affairs Update*, February 6, 2026

"Washington's 2026 Playbook: Affordability, Elections, and Major Policy Moves," *Federal Affairs Update*, January 14, 2026

"Trump Administration Accelerates Critical Minerals Strategy with $10+ Billion in New Deals," *Federal Affairs Update*, November 10, 2025

"DOI Policy Changes Signal Major Shift Away From Wind Energy," *Federal Affairs Update*, July 31, 2025

"EPA Proposes Sweeping Repeal of GHG Standards for Fossil Fuel-Fired Power Plants," *Environmental Update* , June 18, 2025

BLOG POSTS

"Can Congress Pass A Farm Bill During Lame-Duck?," *The Pulse*, November 23, 2026