Tribal Interior Budget Council Resolution

Title: Supporting Tribal Nation Building, Growth, and the Upholding of the Federal Treaty and Trust Responsibility in the Department of the Interior Strategic Plan

WHEREAS, the Tribal Interior Budget Council (TiBC) was created to provide a forum and process, consistent with the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, Section 450 (a)1 and Executive Order 13175 and Department of the Interior’s (DOI) Government to Government policy, whereby Tribes and the Department work together to develop policy and budgets that provide for 1) the DOI to fulfill its Trust responsibilities and Treaty obligations; and 2) the fulfillment of Tribes’ inherent sovereign rights of self-determination, self-governance, and self-sufficiency, as well as securing levels of funding necessary to strengthen Tribal governmental capacity to serve their Tribal citizens and communities; and

WHEREAS, these trust and treaty obligations of the United States to the Tribal Nations within its boundaries include, but are not limited to, providing health care, education, housing, social welfare, law and order, transportation, responsibility for trust lands, and many other services; and

WHEREAS, the DOI Strategic Plan reflects the complex mission of DOI and how it affects the lives of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, every four (4) years the Department of the Interior updates their Strategic Plan, with the current goal to have a plan in place before the new Administration takes over so that the new Administration can either adopt or modify the existing plan; and

WHEREAS, the strategic plan plays an important role in that it contains measures to which funding is tied; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan is the Department’s long-term plan so there is a limited number of measures (22) in the plan that tie into the stated goals. The Department also has “Operational Plans” that are updated annually and that include more measures; and

WHEREAS, the deadline is mid-September for Indian Affairs to submit a plan to the Department of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan is finalized in February of 2018 providing additional time for the Tribes to weigh in with recommendations; the Department indicated a plan to establish a workgroup after the November elections and to host Tribal consultations; and

WHEREAS, the Department is looking to the Tribal Interior Budget Council and the Data Management Committee to provide input into the process; and
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the TIBC tribal leaders urge that the strategic planning initiative should be used to hold the federal government accountable for honoring the trust and treaty obligations funded in the federal budget, including through the use of measures that reflect nation-building; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in planning for the FY 2018-FY2021 DOI Strategic Plan, the Tribal Leaders of the Tribal Interior Budget Council request for the DOI to reflect mission driven goals and measures (currently 22) that have a higher level focus and that focus on tribal nation rebuilding and growth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the TIBC requests for other DOI agencies and bureaus to reflect the goals of tribal nation building, honoring the treaty and trust obligations, and support for tribal self-determination; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that as Chair for White House Council on Native American Affairs, the DOI strategic plan should reflect a greater effort to work and lead across all federal departments for properly a coordinated federal effort on Indian Affairs, which also includes providing to tribal leaders the detailed breakout of the Office of Management and Budget cross-cut of funding to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution came before the Tribal leader caucus attending the Tribal Interior Budget Council in Washington, D.C. on July 14, 2016 and was passed unanimously.

W. Ron Allen, Co-Chair
Tribal/Interior Budget Council

Edward K. Thomas, Jr., Co-Chair
Tribal/Interior Budget Council