TRIBAL INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Title: Supporting Robust Tribal Funding in the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill

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, through ratification of the Constitution, treaties, agreements, statutes and executive orders, the United States undertook a Federal trust responsibility to assist Indian nations and tribes in providing public safety, law and order and the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a special responsibility for Indian Country Public Safety and Law Enforcement, and provides general prosecutorial authority for much of Indian Country under 18 U.S.C. 1152 and 1153; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Attorney General’s Advisory Committee Report on American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Children Exposed to Violence found that AI/AN children “suffer exposure to violence at rates higher than any other race in the United States,” and

WHEREAS, the National Institute for Justice reports that nearly 85% of AI/AN women and over 80% of AI/AN men will experience intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or stalking in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, in a 2016 report to Congress mandated by the Tribal Law & Order Act, the Bureau of Indian Affairs estimate that $1 billion is needed for tribal law enforcement, $1 billion is needed for tribal courts, and $222.8 million is needed for detention facilities in order to provide a base level of services in Tribal communities;

WHEREAS, federal funding for tribal public safety, law enforcement and tribal courts is woefully inadequate and has remained stagnant or decreased over the last several years in many regions while the tribal population has increased, alcohol and drug abuse has become epidemic, suicide attempts and completions, especially among youth, have soared, and the incidence of serious violent crime has increased; and

WHEREAS, methamphetamine, heroin, other drugs, and alcohol abuse have overtaken tribal lands, causing violent crime, domestic disturbance, trouble among our youths; and
WHEREAS, the House Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) FY 2018 Appropriations Bill, S. 2387, passed the House Appropriations Committee on July 13, 2017, and provides more than $350 million in funding for tribal justice and victim services programs for FY 2018—including a 7% tribal allocation from many discretionary Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and a 5% tribal allocation from the Crime Victims Fund (CVF); and

WHEREAS, President Trump’s budget request for FY 18 similarly included a 7% tribal allocation from OJP discretionary programs and a 5% tribal allocation from the CVF.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the TIBC urges Congress to support the 7% tribal set-aside of OJP funding for Indian Country public safety, law enforcement, and the administration of justice and the 5% tribal allocation from the CVF as it works to finalize the FY 18 Commerce Justice Science Appropriations Bill; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Justice Department should conduct government-to-government consultation with Indian tribes to determine how to best allocate appropriated funds to meet the various needs of tribal justice systems, including funding for tribal law enforcement, courts, detention facilities, indigent counsel, victim services, juvenile justice, rehabilitation and reentry programs, and crime prevention efforts.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution came before the Tribal leader caucus attending the Tribal Interior Budget Council in Flagstaff, AZ on July 26, 2017 and was passed unanimously.

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

Rick Harrison, Co-Chair
Tribal/Interior Budget Council