Re: Thank You for Passage of H.R. 1585, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019

Dear Majority Leader Hoyer and Republican Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the Tribal/Interior Budget Council (TIBC) Tribal leadership, we write to thank the House of Representatives for passing H.R. 1585, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019. TIBC was created to provide a forum and process, consistent with Section 5303 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, Executive Order 13175, and the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) Government-to-Government policy, whereby Tribal Nations and DOI work together to develop budgets that ensure:

1) DOI is able to fulfill its trust responsibilities and treaty obligations; and
2) Secure levels of funding are provided to Tribal Nations to strengthen Tribal governance capacity, including the fulfillment of ‘Tribal Nations’ inherent sovereign rights of self-determination, self-governance, and self-sufficiency.

The Tribal provisions in this bill directly impact Tribal Nations’ operation of public safety and justice programs through DOI, which, in turn, affects budgetary considerations for these programs. While the Department of Justice funds many of these programs, the day-to-day law enforcement activities are carried out by Tribal Nations and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services. Each Tribal provision in H.R. 1585 is integral to the improvement of Tribal public safety and justice programs and the enhanced use of those program funds through DOI. As such, the TIBC Tribal representatives thank the House for passage of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019.

Sincerely,

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

Rick Harrison, Co-Chair
Tribal/Interior Budget Council

Alvin Not Afraid, Jr., Co-Chair
Tribal/Interior Budget Council