

# TRIBAL INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL RESOLUTION

## TRIBAL CAUCUS

Tribal Co-Chairs  
**W. Ron Allen**  
*Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe*

**Edward K. Thomas, Jr.**  
*Craig Tribal Association*

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

ALASKA  
**Edward K. Thomas, Jr.**  
*Craig Tribal Association*

**Rick Harrison**  
*Chickaloon Native Village*

EASTERN OKLAHOMA  
**Jefferson Keel**  
*Chickasaw Nation*

**Greg Pitcher**  
*Shawnee Tribe*

GREAT PLAINS  
**Vernon Miller**  
*Omaha Tribe*

**Harold C. Frazier**  
*Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe*

MIDWEST  
**Darrell Seki**  
*Red Lake Nation*

**Chris McGeshick**  
*Sakaoagon Chippewa Community*

EASTERN  
**Brenda Fields**  
*Penobscot Indian Nation*

**Kitcki Carrol**  
*United South and Eastern Tribes*

NAVAJO  
**Russell Begaye**  
*Navajo Nation*

**Lorenzo Bates**  
*Navajo Nation*

NORTHWEST  
**W. Ron Allen**  
*Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe*

**Greg Abrahamson**  
*Spokane Tribe*

PACIFIC  
**Robert Smith**  
*Pala Reservation*

**Russell Attebery**  
*Karuk Tribe*

ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
**Alvin (AJ) Not Afraid, Jr**  
*Crow Tribe*

**Darwin St. Clair, Jr.**  
*Shoshone Business Council*

SOUTHERN PLAINS  
**Ronnie Thomas**  
*Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas*

**Angela Thompson**  
*Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma*

SOUTHWEST  
**Gary Hayes**  
*Ute Mountain Ute Tribe*

**Richard B. Luarkie**  
*Pueblo of Laguna*

WESTERN  
**Norman Honanie**  
*Hopi Tribe of Arizona*

**Mervin Wright, Jr.**  
*Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe*

**Title:** Supporting Tribal Public Safety and Victims Funding in the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill and Inclusion of Public Safety & Justice within the White House Council on Native American Affairs Sub-Committees

**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 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 fundamental trust, treaty and statutory obligations of the United States to American Indians have never been fully fulfilled, and American Indians and Alaska Natives suffer from great inadequacies and inequities in all aspects of those functions that are part of the overall trust, treaty and statutory obligations of the United States to American Indians, as has been continuously documented in many studies through the years; and

**WHEREAS,** crime victimization rates in tribal communities are staggering and have been estimated as much as 250% higher than the national rate. Predictably, the high level of violence has devastating social, health, and financial consequences, particularly for Native children who experience post-traumatic stress disorder at a rate of 22%—the same levels as Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans and triple the rate of the rest of the population<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS,** despite this profound need, Indian tribes have largely been left out of the annual disbursements from the Crime Victims Fund (CVF); and

**WHEREAS,** Unlike state and territorial governments, who receive an annual formula distribution from the CVF, Indian tribes are only able to access CVF funds via pass-through grants from the states or by competing for very limited resources administered by the Department of Justice. From 2010–2014, state governments passed through 0.5% of available funds to programs serving tribal victims—less than \$2.5 million annually nationwide. This leaves a significant unmet need in most tribal communities; and

**WHEREAS,** the Senate Appropriations Committee passed the FY 2017 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill, S. 2837, which includes over \$350 million for tribal programs in the Department of Justice (DOJ); and

<sup>1</sup> Attorney General's Advisory Committee on American Indian/Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence, at 38, *available at*, <https://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/task-force-american-indian-and-alaska-native-children-exposed-violence>.

- WHEREAS,** S. 2837 includes more than a \$200 million increase over the FY 2016 enacted level for tribal programs in DOJ; and
- WHEREAS,** S. 2837 includes a 5% tribal set-aside from the Crime Victim's Fund, which responds to a long-standing concern raised by tribal leaders that tribal governments have been excluded from programs created by the Victims of Crime Act; and
- WHEREAS,** funding in the bill includes: \$145 million for Indian tribes through a 5% set-aside from the Crime Victim's Fund for providing services to crime victims; \$114 million for Indian tribes through a 7% set-aside from across the Office of Justice Programs that can be used to develop the capacity of tribal criminal justice systems; \$30 million for tribal programs at the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) office; \$10 million for the Tribal Youth Program; an estimated \$39 million for the Office on Violence Against Women's (OVW) Grants to Tribal Governments Program through set-asides from other OVW programs; an estimated \$6.5 million for OVW's Tribal Coalitions Program through set-asides from OVW programs; an estimated \$3.5 million for OVW's Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program; \$4 million for implementation of Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction; \$1 million for research on violence against Native women; \$500,000 for the National Indian Country Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault ; and
- WHEREAS,** to meet the needs of crime victims on tribal lands, Indian tribal governments need a stable source of funding to build the crime victim services and compensation infrastructure that is taken for granted in much of the rest of the country; and
- WHEREAS,** the White House Council on Native American Affairs includes five subcommittees addressing education, health care, natural resources/climate change, economic development/infrastructure, and energy. Tribal leaders request that this Advisory Council needs to include a new subcommittee to address public safety and justice services.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the White House Council on Native American Affairs should establish a Public Safety and Justice Subcommittee; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the leaders of the Tribal Nations across the 12 BIA regions attending the TIBC meeting urge Senate to adopt the Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bills, S. 2837, with the existing 7% tribal-set aside of Office of Justice Program funding and the 5% set-aside for tribes in the Crime Victims Fund; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** that the leaders of the Tribal Nations across the 12 BIA regions attending the TIBC meeting urge House appropriators to direct 5% of disbursements from the Crime Victims Fund to tribal governments, which is the level currently included in the Senate CJS appropriations bill; and urge the inclusion of the 7% tribal set-aside of Office of Justice Program funding.

#### CERTIFICATION

This resolution came before the Tribal leader caucus attending the Tribal Interior Budget Council in Washington, D.C. on May 11, 2016 and was passed unanimously.



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



Edward K. Thomas, Jr., Co-Chair  
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