

# TRIBAL INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL RESOLUTION

## TRIBAL CAUCUS

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

**Rick Harrison**  
*Chickaloon Native Village*

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

### ALASKA

**Rick Harrison**  
*Chickaloon Native Village*

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

**Greg Pitcher**  
*Shawnee Tribe*

GREAT PLAINS  
**Nancy Green-Robertson**  
*Spirit Lake Tribe*

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

### MIDWEST

**Darrell Seki**  
*Red Lake Nation*

**Chris McGeshick**  
*Sakaoagon Chippewa Community*

### EASTERN

**Cheryl Andrews-Maltais**  
*Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah*

**Kiteki 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*

**Mark Azure**  
*Fort Belknap Indian Community*

### SOUTHERN PLAINS

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

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

### SOUTHWEST

**Helen Klinekole**  
*Mescalero Apache Tribe*

**Terry Aguilar**  
*Pueblo de San Ildefonso*

### WESTERN

**Norman Honanic**  
*Hopi Tribe of Arizona*

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

**Title: Supporting the Federal Treaty and Trust Obligations in the FY 2018 Budget**

**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**, Tribes ceded millions of acres of land and natural resources, often by force and/or coercion, that are the foundation of the wealth and power of the United States. In return tribes have the right of continued self-government and the right to exist as distinct peoples on their own land; for its part, the United States has assumed a trust responsibility to protect these rights and to fulfill its solemn commitments to Indian tribes and their citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, part of this trust responsibility includes basic governmental services in Indian Country, funding for which is appropriated in the discretionary portion of the federal budget; as governments, tribes must deliver a wide range of critical services, such as education, workforce development, and first-responder and public safety services, to their citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, a nation that bases its greatness on its rule of law must uphold the agreements it signs with other nations. Between 1777 and 1868, the United States signed hundreds of treaties with tribal nations. These compacts with the First Americans helped to make possible the America we know today. And the First Americans have paid an incalculable price along the way; and

**WHEREAS**, in these solemn agreements, the U.S. government made promises it was obligated to fulfill in perpetuity. These promises codified the unique political status of tribal nations and established the bedrock principles of the federal government's "trust responsibility" to protect the remaining lands and inherent rights of self-government of tribal nations. These agreements obligated the U.S. government to a fiduciary responsibility to Tribal Nations, including the provision of healthcare, education, housing, economic development, and agricultural funding, programs, and services; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 23, 2017, the Trump Administration released its Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 budget request, which would reduce spending for non-defense programs by \$54 billion below the sequestration level for FY 2018 and by \$1.6 trillion over the next decade, taking this spending category to its lowest level as a percent of GDP in sixty years; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous federal programs designed to meet treaty and trust obligations would be reduced and/or entirely eliminated in the FY 2018 budget and it has been suggested that some are race-based. Federal Indian programs are not based on race or ethnicity but rather on the centuries-long political relationship between Tribal Nations and the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the FY 2018 President's Budget Request for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is \$2.48 billion, a decrease of \$371.7 million below the FY 2017 Omnibus level, a decrease of about 13%; and

**WHEREAS**, during a Tribal briefing call on the Budget Request hosted by the DOI, Tribal Nations were told that all American citizens must do their part to reduce the federal deficit; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal trust obligation and our sacred relationship with the U.S. government set Tribal Nations and their citizens apart from all other American citizens. Federal Indian programs are not responsible for the federal deficit and subjecting them to deficit reduction is a violation of this obligation; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed BIA budget would eliminate a number of essential programs, including:

- **Housing Improvement Program**
- **Tribal Climate Resilience**
- **Alaska Native Programs**
- **Small and Needy Tribes**
- **Special Higher Ed. Scholarships**
- **Science Post Graduate Scholarship Fund**
- **Juvenile Detention Center Education**
- **Replacement School Construction**
- **Replacement Facility Construction**

Significant reductions (compared to the FY17 CR level) include:

- **Social Services**, cut 22.4%
- **Rights Protection**, cut 24%
- **Endangered Species Act**, cut 51.4%
- **Trust Services**, cut 44.5%
- **Scholarships & Adult Ed.**, cut 19.8%
- **ISEP Program Adjustments**, cut 45%
- **Education Program Enhancements**, cut 48%
- **Tribal Education Dep.**, cut 50%
- **Early Childhood and Family Development**, cut 50%
- **Johnson O'Malley**, cut 31%; and

**WHEREAS**, if the proposed budget were enacted for BIA, the overall funding would be lower than any level in the last 15 years, when adjusted for inflation; already, the enacted 2017 BIA funding level is 6% below the comparable 2010 level after adjusting for inflation, and in 2018, those cuts would grow to 20% under the proposed budget.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Tribal leaders of the TIBC remind the DOI and the Administration of its solemn fiduciary obligations to Tribal Nations. Federal spending in fulfillment of these obligations is not responsible for the federal deficit and must be held harmless. The United States must do its part ensure that this obligation is fulfilled, including through the President's Budget Request.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Tribal leaders of the TIBC urge Congress to reject the proposed cuts to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education, which violate the federal treaty and trust obligations to Indian tribes and to instead provide for increases to BIA in the Senate version of the FY 2018 Interior-Environment spending bill.

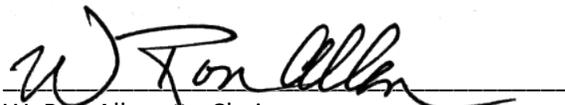
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Tribal leaders of the TIBC urge this Administration to issue an Executive Order on U.S.-Tribal Relations, outlining its recognition and commitment to upholding and protecting Tribal sovereignty, fulfilling its unique and sacred trust obligations, and to diplomatic engagement between sovereign nations.

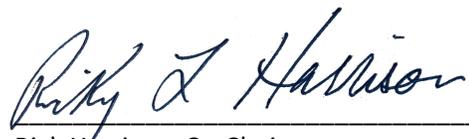
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that TIBC urges the Secretary of the Interior to issue a Secretarial Order outlining and affirming trust responsibilities to Tribal Nations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that for sovereignty to have significant meaning, the Federal Government must affirm its commitment to consultation, but more importantly move to consent as an expression of true sovereign recognition.

**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