

TRIBAL INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL RESOLUTION

TRIBAL CAUCUS

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

Edward K. Thomas, Jr.
Craig Tribal Association

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Edward K. Thomas, Jr.
Craig Tribal Association

Rick Harrison
Chickaloon Native Village

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Jefferson Keel
Chickasaw Nation

Greg Pitcher
Shawnee Tribe

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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
Brenda Fields
Pembosot Indian Nation

Kitcki Carrol
United South and Eastern Tribes

NAVAJO
Russell Begaye
Navajo Nation

Lorenzo Bates
Navajo Nation

NORTHWEST
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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

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Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas

Angela Thompson
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma

SOUTHWEST
Helen Kinehole
Mescalero Apache Tribe

Terry Aguilar
Pueblo de San Ildefonso

WESTERN
Norman Honanic
Hopi Tribe of Arizona

Mervin Wright, Jr.
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

Title: Uphold the Trust and Treaty Obligations in the FY 2018 Federal 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 that made the United States what it is today, and 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, healthcare, workforce development, infrastructure, first-responder, and public safety services, to their citizens; and

WHEREAS, funding decisions by the Administration and Congress are an expression of our nation's policy priorities, and the federal budget for tribal governmental services reflects the extent to which the United States honors its trust obligations to Indian people; and

WHEREAS, the President sent Congress a FY 2018 budget outline of a limited number of discretionary spending proposals on March 16; the plan proposes a \$54 billion increase in defense spending at the expense of an equal cut of more than 10 percent to nondefense discretionary spending; and

WHEREAS, the nondefense side of the federal budget provides funds for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service, social service, Indian Housing Block Grant, reservation roads, public safety, and many other programs that meet the federal trust responsibility; and

WHEREAS, overall, the Department of the Interior (DOI) would be cut by 11.7 percent and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) would fall by 17.9 percent; and

WHEREAS, tribal programs located within these agencies are governmental programs; and the services provided are equal, and oftentimes exceed, the programs offered by state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, tribes currently rely on the appropriations process to ensure fulfillment of the trust obligation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that funding that meets the Indian trust responsibility should not be considered discretionary nor subject to across the board reductions; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the tribal leaders of the TIBC oppose reductions to funding for tribal programs in all federal agencies in the FY 2018 budget; and

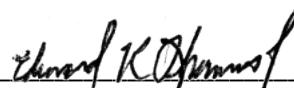
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the tribal leaders of the TIBC urge Congress to pass the FY 2017 Interior-Environment appropriations bill with Indian Affairs programs at least at levels the in the House version of the bill (H.R. 5538).

CERTIFICATION

This resolution came before the Tribal leader caucus attending the Tribal Interior Budget Council in Washington, DC on March 23, 2017 and was passed unanimously.



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



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