

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
Chris Redman
Chickasaw Nation

Greg Pitcher
Shawnee Tribe

GREAT PLAINS
John Yellow Bird Steele
Oglala Sioux Tribe

Harold C. Frazier
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

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Red Lake Nation
Jimmie Mitchell
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

EASTERN
Brenda Fields
Penobscot Indian Nation

Kitcki Carrol
United South and Eastern Tribes

NAVAJO
Ben Shelly
Navajo Nation

Johnny Naize
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

Darwin St. Clair, Jr.
Shoshone Business Council

SOUTHERN PLAINS
Ronnie Thomas
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas

Carrie O'Toole
Prairie Band Potawatomi

SOUTHWEST
Gary Hayes
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Richard B. Luarkie
Pueblo of Laguna

WESTERN
Virginia M. Sanchez
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe

Norman Honanic
Hopi Tribe of Arizona

Title: Improving the Structure and Process of the Tribal Interior Budget Council Budget Formulation Process

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, the Snyder Act, 25 U.S.C. Section 13, and many other sections of law codify the obligations to American Indians, including the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, 25 U.S.C. Sections 450 et seq. and the Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, and authorize Congress to appropriate funds to fulfill the fundamental trust responsibilities of the United States, and such acts do not have limitations within them; 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, the budget formulation process coordinates tribal budget priorities and justifications for each fiscal year in coordination with BIA Regional Offices which work to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to specific, regional, and national priorities and requirements expressed by Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the DOI/BIA budget formulation system must provide clarity to the unique needs of tribes without causing undue confusion to the Administration and Congressional leadership; and

WHEREAS, the current BIA Budget Formulation Guidance (Dec 2013) imposes burdens and limitations that prevent Tribes from having the opportunity to put forward a complete picture of the impacts and effects resulting from the underfunding of the fiduciary trust obligation; and

WHEREAS, the current BIA Budget Formulation process fails to adequately recognize that all elements of the BIA budget are priorities as they collectively operate in coordination to ensure strong, healthy, and vibrant Tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, it is important that Congress and the Administration be provided a complete and accurate picture of any and all unfilled fiduciary trust obligations with the understanding that complete fulfillment of the trust obligation is the priority; and

WHEREAS, per the Budget Formulation guidance, Indian Affairs is responsible for coordinating, preparing, and submitting an annual report describing the process used and outcomes related to the formulation of the proposed budget of Indian Affairs; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the leaders of the Tribal Nations attending the TIBC meeting in Washington, D.C. on March 6, 2015, to charge the regional leadership to solicit recommendations to improve the TIBC budget priorities and needs process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the tribal leadership shall review recommendations from the respective regions in the May TIBC meeting.


BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, to effectively evaluate the budget formulation process and the ability of Indian Affairs to incorporate tribal recommendations into proposed BIA budgets, DOI/BIA/Indian Affairs collaborating with tribal leadership plans to assess:

- The effectiveness of the methods used to receive verbal and written comments and recommendations from participating Indian Tribes, Indian organizations, Indian Affairs management, and other invited participants regarding the process used to formulate the budget;
- The effectiveness of the system and methods implemented, including IA and tribal views regarding the level of attendance and the number of responses received from tribal officials across the nation;
- The effectiveness of IA activities related to outreach and promoting tribal input regarding the process used to formulate the budget;
- The effectiveness of collaboration with Indian organizations and other federal agencies to resolve issues for the mutual benefit of Indian Affairs and Indian Tribes;
- The recommendations received from Indian Affairs, Indian Tribes, and other federal agencies to improve the formulation process and promote meaningful outcomes.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution came before the Tribal leader caucus attending the Tribal Interior Budget Council in Washington, D.C. on March 6, 2015 and was passed unanimously.


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


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