



*Firefighters from the Hoopa Indian Reservation Fire Department in California, extinguish a hot spot to prevent a forest fire from re-igniting.*

*Credit: US Air Force Staff Sgt. Jonathan Snyder.*

## HOMELAND SECURITY

Tribes are an integral component of our country's homeland security infrastructure, which makes it perilous to abandon funding in this area. Nearly 40 tribes are located directly on or near the borders that the United States shares with Mexico and Canada. Hundreds of tribal governments are the only major governmental presence in rural and isolated locations, serving as the first, and oftentimes only, law enforcement authority and emergency responders for Native and non-Native communities. Tribal governments have broad emergency and first-responder responsibilities, as well as extensive border security responsibilities, including enforcement activities to deal with illegal immigration, terrorism, and smuggling activities. Dozens of tribes have critical national infrastructure on their lands, including national oil pipelines, nuclear facilities, missile sites, and dams.

### Key Recommendations

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)

##### *Homeland Security Appropriations Bill*

#### Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative

- Provide \$20 million to enable tribal governments to work cooperatively with DHS in developing tribal identification cards.

Tribal governments face the cost-prohibitive unfunded mandate to comply with the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative requirement of enhanced tribal identification (ID) cards. Funding for these tribal ID cards will enable tribal government officials and citizens to continue to cross borders in accordance with longstanding treaty rights and agreements, visit relatives and participate in cultural activities, and enter federal offices where they regularly conduct business.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

##### *Homeland Security Appropriations Bill*

#### Tribal Homeland Security Direct Grants

- Provide \$20 million annually in additional funding for tribal direct grants.

This appropriation will enable tribes to fulfill the crucial role of first responders and border security officials in a broad array of key jurisdictions throughout the nation.