

# TRIBAL INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL RESOLUTION

## TRIBAL CAUCUS

Tribal Co-Chairs  
**W. Ron Allen**  
*Jamesstown 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**  
*Sakaoagan 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**  
*Jamesstown 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  
**Helen C. 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: Opposing Any Decreases to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Budget in the Interior Appropriations Bill**

**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, workforce development, and 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 obligations to Indian people; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress and federal agencies have improperly imposed reductions in the levels of funding for trust obligations the United States owes the tribes and the United States has increasingly underfunded essential government services to Indians; and

**WHEREAS**, due to insufficient funding and services by federal agencies, Native communities have suffered severe social, economic, and environmental harms at a rate far in excess of other communities, including inequitable incidence of disease, unemployment, suicide, substance abuse, domestic abuse, violence, flooding, and wildfires; and

**WHEREAS**, the House and Senate appropriations committees have approved their versions of the Interior Appropriations bill; the House version provides a 2.6% increase over the FY 16 enacted level for Bureau of Indian Affairs/Bureau of Indian Education (BIA/BIE) and the Senate version would provide a 2.1% increase.

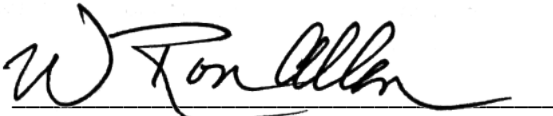
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the tribal caucus of the TIBC opposes any decreases proposed at the Department of Interior level, in the President’s budget, or presented in the House and Senate Interior appropriations bills, which are contrary to the trust obligations to tribes.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the tribal caucus of the TIBC supports restoring the funding for broadband and digital services in Indian schools, the Native One-Stop Support Center and the data quality initiative in Indian Country; assistance to tribes to manage natural resources, prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change, and funding to support resolution of tribal land and water claims.

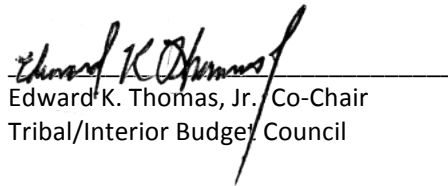
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the TIBC tribal caucus hereby calls on the White House, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the White House Council on Native American Affairs, and the United States Congress to allocate and budget sufficiently increased federal funding for all Indian programs to fully satisfy all essential and ongoing needs under applicable treaties, statutes, Executive Orders, and agreements.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution came before the Tribal leader caucus attending the Tribal Interior Budget Council in Washington, D.C. on July 14, 2016 and was passed unanimously.



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



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