

TRIBAL INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL RESOLUTION

TRIBAL CAUCUS

Tribal Co-Chairs
W. Ron Allen
Jamesstown S'Klallam Tribe
Rick Harrison
Chickaloon Native Village

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

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Chickaloon Native Village

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Chickasaw Nation

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Shawnee Tribe

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Spirit Lake Tribe

Harold C. Frazier
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

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Red Lake Nation

Chris McGeshick
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Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah

Kitcki Carrol
United South and Eastern Tribes

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Russell Begaye
Navajo Nation

Lorenzo Bates
Navajo Nation

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Jamesstown S'Klallam Tribe

Greg Abrahamson
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PACIFIC

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Pala Reservation

Russell Attebery
Karuk Tribe

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
Alvin (AJ) Not Afraid, Jr
Crow Tribe

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Fort Belknap Indian Community

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Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma

SOUTHWEST

Helen Klinekole
Mescalero Apache Tribe

Terry Aguilar
Pueblo de San Ildefonso

WESTERN
Norman Honanie
Hopi Tribe of Arizona

Mervin Wright, Jr.
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

Title: Calling for Full Funding of the Federal Trust Responsibility and Ensuring the United States has the Revenue to Finance Federal Commitments in Tax Legislation

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 United States of America funds health and social service programs for the benefit of all Americans, including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as well as annually appropriated programs specifically for tribes such as the Indian Health Service (IHS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and others; and

WHEREAS, federal social programs, including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP, unemployment insurance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the refundable component of the Child Tax Credit provide important benefits to Indian Country; analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities shows that 90 percent of such benefits go to the elderly, seriously disabled, or members of working families as opposed to able-bodied, working-age Americans; and

WHEREAS, part of the 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, the FY 2018 Budget resolution would fast track a tax overhaul by authorizing an increase of \$1.5 trillion in debt over the coming decade using the procedural tool of reconciliation; and

WHEREAS, the \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts over ten years would be deficit-financed which would increase pressure for reducing the federal budget for programs ranging from health care, education, transportation, scientific research, community development, housing, with such cuts leading to adverse consequences for lower- and middle-income families and long-term growth; and

WHEREAS, under the budget resolution, the Senate Finance Committee would receive a reconciliation instruction to produce legislation that would increase the deficit by not more than \$1.5 trillion over ten years, which means that the Finance Committee could cut taxes by more than that amount as long as it cut entitlement programs under its jurisdiction — such as Medicaid, Medicare, and Supplemental Security Income — enough to reduce the net cost to \$1.5 trillion; and

WHEREAS, the budget resolution also calls for \$632 billion in budget reductions to non-defense discretionary programs over the 2019-2027 period, which includes the funding for the federal trust responsibility as well a range of public services such as law enforcement, environmental protection, infrastructure, and others; 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, as a further consequence of federal actions and inactions, Indian tribes across the nation have been forced to spend large amounts of scarce tribal funds to support the services that should have been provided or paid for by the United States; and

WHEREAS, deficit-financed tax cuts that lead to potential austerity cuts would affect all Americans, but would disproportionately impact American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) who rely on federal funding of the trust responsibility as well as social programs; and

WHEREAS, policymakers should consider the distributional impacts to households as well as American Indians/Alaska Natives if the federal budget is cut in the future to reduce deficits caused by tax cuts; the cuts to federal treaty and trust obligations coupled with cuts to mandatory programs such as Medicaid and SNAP could leave AI/AN people and low- and middle-class households worse off, even with some tax reductions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Tribal leaders of the TIBC call for Congress to uphold the federal treaty and trust obligations, in any tax legislation or administration proposal, that are funded in the appropriations process, as well as ensure that the U.S. Government has the revenue to finance existing federal commitments and meet critical national needs now and in the future.

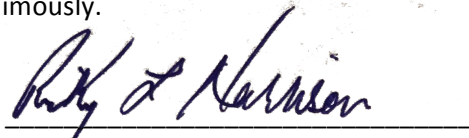
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all budget and appropriations proposals shall hold harmless the funding levels for tribal programs.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution came before the Tribal leader caucus attending the Tribal Interior Budget Council in Washington, DC on November 8, 2017 and was passed unanimously.



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



Rick Harrison, Co-Chair
Tribal/Interior Budget Council