

May 13: USET SPF Action Alert: Request Oversight Hearings on Broken Promises Report

Dear USET SPF Membership,

We write to encourage you to join USET SPF in urging Congress to conduct oversight hearings on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights' (USCCR) recent report, [Broken Promises: Continuing Federal Funding Shortfall for Native Americans](#) [linked].

The *Broken Promises* report comes after years of advocacy from Tribal Nations and organizations seeking an update to the 2003 [Quiet Crisis](#) report [linked], which found deep failures in the delivery of federal fiduciary trust and treaty obligations. The *Broken Promises* report confirms what we in Indian Country already know—with the exception of some minor improvements, the U.S. continues to neglect to meet its “most basic” obligations to Tribal Nations. Though these chronic failures have persisted throughout changes in Administration and Congress, it is time that both the legislative and executive branches confront and correct them.

With this in mind, USET SPF has transmitted letters to the [House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples](#) [linked] and the [Senate Committee on Indian Affairs](#) [linked] requesting oversight hearings with federal witnesses from all agencies and departments, including the Department of the Interior, the Indian Health Service, and the Office of Management and Budget, to examine plans for ensuring the federal government honors its treaty and trust obligations to Tribal Nations, including through the budget and appropriations process.

Please consider amplifying this request by sending a letter on behalf of your Tribal Nations to relevant Congressional Committees and Subcommittees. To assist with these communications, we provide a [template letter](#) [linked]. We are aware of plans for the Tribal Interior Budget Council to send letters and we enclose a draft version of their [letter](#) [linked] for your review, as well.

For more information on the report, including a webinar hosted by the American Bar Association, featuring USET SPF Secretary, Chief Lynn Malerba, and USCCR Commissioner, Karen Narasaki, please click [here](#).

We will continue to follow the progress of this request and provide updates as they become available. Please note that as part of our efforts to expand and strengthen our advocacy, as well as to further elevate our regional voice across Indian Country, this action alert has also been sent to our organizational partners and allies.

Thank you,

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“The United States expects all nations to live up to their treaty obligations; it should live up to its own.”

– U.S. Commission on Civil Rights briefing report, *Broken Promises: Continuing Federal Funding Shortfall for Native Americans*

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