

USET SPF Alert: House Interior Appropriations Releases Draft FY 2021, Subcommittee Mark-up Tomorrow (July 7)

Dear USET SPF Membership,

Today, the House Appropriations Committee released its **draft** Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies funding bill, linked [here](#). The legislation includes funding for federal Indian programs within the Department of the Interior, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), as well as the Indian Health Service (IHS). A summary on the bill is also linked [here](#).

IHS: The legislation allocates \$6.5 billion, an increase of \$445 million above the FY 2020 enacted level and \$199 million above the President's budget request. Notable line items include:

- Purchased/Referred Care – \$1.01 billion, a \$45 million increase from both the FY 2020 enacted level and level and the President's Budget Request;
- Indian Health Care Improvement Fund – \$73 million, level funding from FY 2020 enacted level and level with the President's budget request;
- Fully funds Contract Support Costs;
- A separate indefinite appropriation for Section 105(I) leases to be available through September 30, 2022. This two-year budget authority will allow for and better facilitate late-in-the-year lease requests;
 - The House Appropriations proposal rejects requested legislative language in the President's FY 2021 Budget Request which had proposed Congressional approval for facilities exceeding 40,000 square-feet, which USET SPF and others strongly opposed.

BIA/BIE: For BIA, BIE, and the Office of the Special Trustee, \$3.5 billion total is allocated—an increase of \$188 million above the FY 2020 enacted level and \$562 million above the President's budget request. Notable line items include:

BIA

- \$1.6 billion – Bureau of Indian Affairs Operation of Indian Programs, an increase of \$64 million above the FY 2020 enacted level and \$194 million above the President's budget request.
- Fully funds Contract Support Costs.
- Creates a separate indefinite appropriation for Section 105(I) leases under Payment for Tribal Leases to be available through September 30, 2022.

BIE

- \$982 million – Bureau of Indian Education Operation of Indian Programs, an increase of \$39 million above the FY 2020 enacted level and \$106 million above the President's budget request.
- \$249 million – Bureau of Indian Education Construction, an increase of \$1 million above the FY 2020 enacted level and \$180 million above the President's budget request

On February 11th, USET SPF President, Chief Kirk Francis, provided [testimony](#) [linked] to the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee during its annual public witness hearings. Based on the timing of the hearings and the due date for written testimony (one week prior), USET SPF was unable to provide specific impressions on the President's FY 2021 Budget Request. Rather, our testimony focused on advocacy to more fully deliver upon the trust obligation and support for regional budget priorities.

In order to advance the bill, the Subcommittee will be holding a mark-up hearing **tomorrow, Tuesday, July 7, 2020, at 11:00am EST**. You can view it [here](#) [link]. The Interior Appropriations bill is one of twelve appropriations bills that must be enacted prior to September 30th, the end of FY 2020. With the Senate unlikely to begin work on appropriations legislation prior to the August recess, it is likely that a Continuing Resolution may be enacted for at least a portion of FY 2021.

USET SPF will monitor the hearing and will keep our membership updated as the FY 2021 appropriations process progresses. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sisy Garcia (*Cheyenne & Arapaho*)

Policy Analyst

United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund

400 North Capitol St., Ste. 585

Washington, D.C. 20001

Tel: 202-624-1467

Cell: 505-730-9923