



November 16, 2020

Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva, Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Rob Bishop, Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Ruben Gallego, Chairman
Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples
of the United States
1337 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Paul Cook, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples
of the United States
1337 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Indian Country Urges Passage of the Indian Community Economic Enhancement Act

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The undersigned organizations – representing the interests of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments and business enterprises throughout the United States – write to thank you for stewarding through House passage to enactment of the Native American Business Incubators Program Act, Public Law 116-174.

Next, we urge you to do whatever necessary to achieve House passage and enactment of the twice Senate-passed Indian Community Economic Enhancement Act (S. 212, H.R. 1937). This bill’s various provisions will promote entrepreneurship, expanded contract opportunities, job creation and help revive economic development of tribal economies – all essential to enable Indian Country to recover from the devastating impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

Congressional actions to provide coronavirus relief make clear that you and your House Colleagues want to do right by Indian Country. It is also clear that, to deliver tailored, targeted business-related relief to Indian Country, the key provisions of S. 212 are paramount:

Elevating and authorizing a permanent budget for the Office of Native American Business Development within the Department of Commerce to ensure its full operation to promote departmental efforts and coordinate with other agencies to support business and economic development recovery, and promote trade and tourism resumption;

Strengthening the Buy Indian Act procurement authority; and

Reauthorizing the Native American Programs Act with improvements to the Socio-Economic Development grant programs.



AMERICAN INDIAN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING SOCIETY

AIANTA American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association

We urge that S. 212 be scheduled immediately for House floor consideration to speed its enactment before the end of this Congress. We stand ready to work with you to achieve this goal.

Thank you for your prompt attention and support to advance business and economic development in Indian Country.

Respectfully,

Chris James
President & CEO
National Center for American
Indian Enterprise Development

Kevin J. Allis
Chief Executive Officer
National Congress of
American Indians

Joseph Valandra
Executive Director

Native American Contractors
Association

Dante Desiderio
Executive Director
Native American Finance
Officers Association

Sarah Echohawk
Chief Executive Officer
American Indian Science &
Engineering Society

Sherry L. Rupert
Chief Executive Officer
American Indian Alaska
Native Tourism Association

Jason Giles
Executive Director
National Indian Gaming
Association

Chief Kirk Francis
President
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund

Jackson Brossy
Executive Director
Native CDFI Network

John Echohawk
Executive Director
Native American Rights Fund

Amber Schulz-Oliver
Executive Director.
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
Economic Development Corporations