



Congressional Native American Caucus

CO-CHAIRS TOM COLE (R-OK) & SHARICE DAVIDS (D-KS)

November 6, 2025

The Honorable Linda E. McMahon
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

The Honorable Scott Turner
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20410

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary McMahon, Secretary Turner, and Secretary Bessent:

As Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Congressional Native American Caucus, we write to you to affirm our continued support of staff and programs that serve Indian country.

The federal government, including federal agencies, has a legally binding trust responsibility to tribal nations to protect and support Native American tribes and their citizens. The United States fulfills these obligations both through the direct delivery of tribal programs and services and the provision of federal funding to tribal nations to provide services to their own communities. Services include education, housing, economic development, nutrition assistance, law enforcement, and many others.

While we understand difficult decisions must be made amid the ongoing lapse in appropriations, implementing Reductions in Force (RIF) for staff administering important programs and funding that serves tribal nations will negatively impact these communities. Staff must be in place within agency departments such as, the Office of Indian Education, Public and Indian Housing, and the CDFI Fund, to properly execute grants and programs that Indian country uniquely relies on.

Should these RIFs be put into effect, our offices would ask the following questions:

- How does your agency intend to continue providing these services to tribal nations?

- Who will be administering programs such as, the OIE formula and discretionary grant programs, Indian Housing Block Grant Program, and the Native Initiatives program?

Tribes rely on these programs to ensure the next generation receives an effective education, opening opportunities for further workforce development so scarce in most communities. Almost every single tribe in the nation utilizes Indian housing block grant dollars to not only provide already limited housing opportunities but also to leverage these dollars for vital housing infrastructure projects. One way for tribes to leverage these dollars is through the CDFI Program, which plays a unique role in closing the gap to access to capital. Where traditional banking systems fall short, Native CDFIs provide transformative lending, financial and technical assistance, supporting the development of nearly 500 units of affordable housing and more than \$659 million in financing – none of which would be possible without this program.

We thank you for your continued service and dedication during these unfortunate circumstances. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

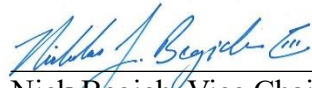
Sincerely,



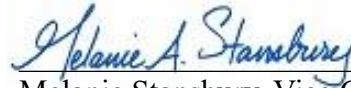
Tom Cole, Co-Chair
Congressional Native American Caucus



Sharice Davids, Co-Chair
Congressional Native American Caucus



Nick Begich, Vice Chair
Congressional Native American Caucus



Melanie Stansbury, Vice Chair
Congressional Native American Caucus