



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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Transmitted Electronically

December 19, 2025

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
2142 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Jordan and Ranking Member Raskin,

On behalf of the United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF), we write in support of the Tribal Warrant Fairness Act (TWFA), introduced by Representatives Cole and Larsen. Along with its Senate companion, this bill would help create parity between Tribal law enforcement agencies and other law enforcement agencies throughout the country by authorizing the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), upon request of a Tribal Nation, to partner with Tribal law enforcement in locating missing children and arresting fugitives in Indian Country. We respectfully request your assistance in ensuring that this legislation receives prompt attention and passage in this Congress. This bill represents an important step in the broader efforts to achieve full parity between Tribal Nations and other government entities and to close the jurisdiction gap in Indian Country by facilitating the full exercise of Tribal jurisdiction.

USET SPF is a non-profit, inter-Tribal organization advocating on behalf of thirty-three (33) federally recognized Tribal Nations from the Northeastern Woodlands to the Everglades and across the Gulf of Mexico.¹ USET SPF is dedicated to promoting, protecting, and advancing the inherent sovereign rights and authorities of Tribal Nations and in assisting its membership in dealing effectively with public policy issues.

Providing Tribal law enforcement with access to USMS resources would give Tribal Nations an important tool in addressing the critical Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) crisis. Currently, the USMS may assist state, local, and other federal law enforcement agencies with missing children investigations, upon request from those agencies. The TWFA would extend this authorization to Tribal law enforcement agencies as well. Additional resources and coordination increase the likelihood that Native children are found and safely returned in the critical first hours after they are reported missing.

¹ USET SPF member Tribal Nations include: Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas (TX), Catawba Indian Nation (SC), Cayuga Nation (NY), Chickahominy Indian Tribe (VA), Chickahominy Indian Tribe—Eastern Division (VA), Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana (LA), Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana (LA), Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (NC), Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians (ME), Jena Band of Choctaw Indians (LA), Mashantucket Pequot Indian Tribe (CT), Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe (MA), Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida (FL), Mi'kmaq Nation (ME), Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MS), Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut (CT), Monacan Indian Nation (VA), Nansemond Indian Nation (VA), Narragansett Indian Tribe (RI), Oneida Indian Nation (NY), Pamunkey Indian Tribe (VA), Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township (ME), Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point (ME), Penobscot Indian Nation (ME), Poarch Band of Creek Indians (AL), Rappahannock Tribe (VA), Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (NY), Seminole Tribe of Florida (FL), Seneca Nation of Indians (NY), Shinnecock Indian Nation (NY), Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana (LA), Upper Mattaponi Tribe (VA), and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) (MA).

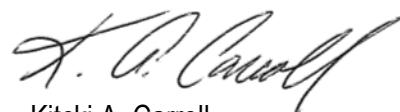
Relatedly, access to USMS resources would help Tribal Nations address criminals' exploitation of Indian Country. Too often, criminals see Indian Country as a "safe haven" for their crimes due to the limitations placed on Tribal Nations' exercise of criminal jurisdiction and the federal governments' failure to properly resource public safety on Tribal lands. The TWFA would provide Tribal law enforcement agencies with access to USMS assistance in locating and apprehending such fugitives, while also fully integrating Tribal law enforcement into the USMS' Fugitive Apprehension Task Force program in parity with other federal, state, and local partners. Critically, the TWFA would also require consultation with Tribal Nations, helping to ensure that task forces operate in a manner that respects Tribal sovereignty and meets Tribal Nations' goals in accordance with trust and treaty obligations.

USET SPF appreciates this bipartisan effort to support Indian Country's access to federal law enforcement resources, in parity with state and local entities. While there is much more work to be done to address issues underlying the MMIP crisis and criminal jurisdiction and law enforcement in Indian Country, the TWFA represents a strong step in the right direction. We support its swift passage and implementation. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact Ms. Liz Malerba, USET SPF Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, at L.Malerba@usetinc.org or 615-838-5906.

Sincerely,



Chief Kirk Francis
President



Kitcki A. Carroll
Executive Director