



THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD NATION
P.O. BOX 278
Pablo, Montana 59855
(406) 275-2700
FAX (406) 275-2806
www.cskt.org



A People of Vision

A Confederation of the Salish,
Pend d' Oreille
and Kootenai Tribes

May 5, 2016

Honorable Steve Daines
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Via Electronic Mail To:

Sophie_Miller@daines.senate.gov

Subject: *Tribal Forestry Participation and Protection Act of 2016*

Dear Senator Daines:

I write on behalf of the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in support of the Tribal Forestry Participation and Protection Act of 2016. As you know the Tribes manage forest resources on the Flathead Indian Reservation, along with many programs formerly operated by the United States. The Tribes promote keeping Indian forested land and nearby Federal forest land healthy by fostering greater cooperation between the Tribes and the Departments of Agriculture and Interior.

The proposed Tribal Forestry Participation and Protection Act of 2016 will provide additional opportunity for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to manage culturally and geographically related Forest Service lands previously ceded by Treaty with the United States and to foster greater cooperation between the Tribes and the Departments of Agriculture and Interior. We understand there are some additional and fairly minor definitional changes being contemplated. As we understand those changes, we are comfortable with them.

We appreciate your efforts in supporting this legislation and look forward to working with you and your colleagues to ensure its swift passage.

Sincerely,

Vernon Finley
Tribal Council Chairman

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:
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