

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 1, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Office of the Vice President
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The *CARES Act* is landmark legislation that provides critical relief to Tribal governments impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Administration undertakes its work to implement this new law, we write to respectfully request that federal resources be deployed expeditiously to Indian Country in a manner consistent with—

- The federal government’s trust and treaty responsibilities;
- Respect for Tribal sovereignty; and
- The principles of meaningful government-to-government consultation.

The U.S. government has specific trust and treaty responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives, responsibilities that all federal agencies share equally. Implementation of the *CARES Act* will require many federal agencies within DOI, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Treasury, the Small Business Administration, and others to work directly with Indian Country on implementation of complicated new authorities and deployment of critical funding.

It is therefore incumbent upon these agencies to respect the inherent sovereignty of Indian Tribes and show deference to Tribal views, particularly as they relate to the use and distribution of *CARES Act* resources and the Tribal Coronavirus Relief Fund that will make an enormous difference in the everyday lives of their members and communities. This can only be accomplished by engaging in meaningful, robust, and – given the nature of this pandemic crisis – rapid government-to-government consultation.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to continuing our work with your Administration to ensure Indian Country is included in our national COVID-19 response.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall
U.S. Senator

/signed electronically/

Ben Ray Luján
U.S. Representative



John Hoeven
U.S. Senator



Deb Haaland
U.S. Representative



Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator



Tom Cole
U.S. Representative



Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator



Raúl M. Grijalva
U.S. Representative



Patty Murray
U.S. Senator



Ruben Gallego
U.S. Representative



Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senator

/signed electronically/

Paul Cook
U.S. Representative



John Barrasso
U.S. Senator



Betty McCollum
U.S. Representative



Jon Tester
U.S. Senator



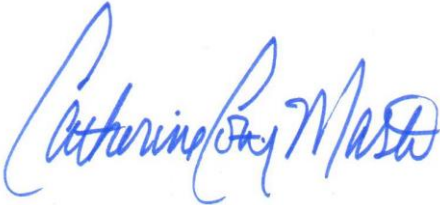
David P. Joyce
U.S. Representative

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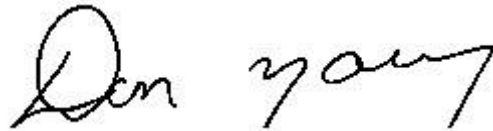
Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senator

/signed electronically/

Sharice L. Davids
U.S. Representative



Catherine Cortez Masto
U.S. Senator



Don Young
U.S. Representative

/signed electronically/

Tina Smith
U.S. Senator



Xochitl Torres Small
U.S. Representative

/signed electronically/

Martin Heinrich
U.S. Senator



Tom O'Halleran
U.S. Representative

/signed electronically/

Kamala D. Harris

U.S. Senator



Kyrsten Sinema

U.S. Senator



Martha McSally

U.S. Senator



Steve Daines

U.S. Senator



Elizabeth Warren

U.S. Senator

/signed electronically/

Jeff Merkley

U.S. Senator