



Written Testimony of  
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**JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBE**  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON**  
**INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES**  
**“2019 APPROPRIATIONS TESTIMONY FOR BIA AND IHS”**  
May 9, 2018

On behalf of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, I am pleased to submit this written testimony on our funding priorities and requests for the Fiscal Year 2019 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) budgets. We have shown time and again that the Federal investment in our community is a good investment. A majority of our Tribal citizens seek secondary degrees or higher and we are the second largest employer in our region. Our revenues continue to grow with the Tribe having generated 76% of our total revenue in 2017 with the remaining 24% coming from Federal, State and local resources. The success we attained reflects that continued Federal program and financial support is invaluable to growing sustainable Tribal economies and bolstering surrounding regional economies.

As we seek to identify opportunities that support our goal of self-reliance, we must also acknowledge the barriers that impede our ability to reach our full potential, including, the failure to include Tribal Tax Provisions in the Tax overhaul package, the failure to ensure Tribal governmental parity with state and local governments in various laws and regulations, the severe and persistent underfunding of Tribal programs and services despite the trust obligation, the absence of data to support funding requests for Tribal programs and services, and the late distribution of funding. All of these factors attribute to the persistent shortfalls and overwhelming unmet needs in Tribal communities. Additionally, data collection for Tribal programs throughout the Federal system is substandard or non-existent and it is difficult, if not impossible, to show program success if funding is not received in a timely fashion. The agencies need to be held accountable and directed to work in partnership with Tribes to collect data that quantifies the true unmet need in Indian country with credible metrics that will provide an accurate profile of the unmet needs in Indian country.

**Tribal Specific Appropriation Priorities**

- 1. \$127,994 Tribal increase for the Indian General Assistance Program (GAP) EPA**
- 2. \$150,000 to restore funding for the Dungeness Floodplain Restoration & Ecosystem Restoration Puget Sound Geographic and National Estuarine Program (NEP) EPA**

**\$127,994 million increase - Indian General Assistance Program (GAP) – EPA -** Our Treaty, Point No Point, guarantees our Tribe and its citizens the right to hunt, fish, and gather shellfish in our usual and accustomed areas but that right is meaningless if there are no elk to hunt, fish to catch, or clams and berries to harvest. Our Tribe has been recognized on numerous occasions for our leadership, stewardship, and management practices in the area of Natural Resources protection and development and we work closely with a consortium of Tribes to protect and

preserve our Treaty rights. We have made tremendous strides in advancing techniques that identify and reduce pollution, improve water quality, assess the status of public health needs, restore habitat, and replenish depleted fish and shellfish stocks, that are on the brink of extinction, including, ESA listed summer chum. Augmenting the fish stock coupled with restoration of the habitat area were the key to a healthy robust fish population. It is projected that within the next 5-10 years it may be a candidate for de-listing under the Endangered Species Act. Preservation of Tribal Treaty Rights begins with Tribal capacity building which is critical to sustain the positive environmental and economic achievements, including, the generation of employment opportunities, the building and upgrading of ecological infrastructure, the establishment of domestic and international trade relationships, and the bolstering of Tribal, local and state economies.

**\$150,000 – Geographic/Ecosystems Program (Dungeness Floodplain Restoration & Ecosystem Restoration Puget Sound) EPA -**

The Geographic/Ecosystems program provides funding for our Tribe to protect and restore the Puget Sound ecosystem. The success of this program is evidenced in the many achievements our Tribe has seen to date, including, the restoration of the Olympia oyster habitat with hatchery-propagated oyster seed, which is, a local native species. The Tribe agreed to restore and protect an acre and a half of the native Olympic oyster bed in Sequim Bay. Initial surveys of the area are proving successful with the population remaining stable and showing evidence of reproduction of new oyster seed. The Tribe has been mapping the area since 2014 and the data shows the oysters are spreading beyond the perimeter of the designated restoration plot. This program is also multi-jurisdictional in that Federal and state agencies, Tribes, regional fishery organizations and other partners take a synergistic and economically sustainable approach to addressing environmental issues. The goal is to restore 100 acres of Olympia oyster habitat by the year 2020.

**National Requests and Recommendations for the BIA and IHS:**

**1. Increase Funding for Tribal Base Budgets/Recurring Programs**

**2. Invest in Tribal Infrastructure**

**Increase Funding for Tribal Base Budgets/Recurring Programs -** . In the past 20 years, there has been a 25.5% funding reduction/permanent rescission of at least twenty (20) different Tribal programs and services in order to pay for tax cuts, wars, hurricanes and technology upgrades. These budgetary rescissions are permanent, unsupportable reductions to Tribal base programs and, when you factor in the inflationary rate, Tribes are not even maintaining level funding. Recently, there has been a growing trend among agencies to fund Tribal programs and services with grant dollars as opposed to providing base recurring funding. Grant funding is short term and undermines Self-Governance, creates uncertainty in planning, requires extensive regulation and reporting requirements and restricts the use of indirect costs. We would urge Congress to increase funding for Tribal base budgets by funding Tribal Priority Allocations and other Recurring Programs because it will benefit all Tribes as opposed to creating more grants that only benefit a few.

**Invest in Tribal Infrastructure** - There is a growing awareness across the political spectrum of the pronounced and immediate need to address this country's need for new as well as rapidly deteriorating infrastructure. Tribal governments and their citizens face profound infrastructure

challenges that are acute and longstanding. The breadth and severity of the unmet infrastructure needs are measured by the high rates of injury and death in our communities. Decaying, unsafe infrastructure is not only a public health issue but an impediment to economic development and job growth. Increased Federal funding and investment could effectuate Tribal infrastructure development efforts.

**National Requests and Recommendations for the BIA:**

- 1. Fund the Office of Self-Governance \$2.25 million**
- 2. Economic Development TPA \$50 million**
- 3. Natural Resources TPA \$10 million**
- 3. Indian Guaranteed Loan Program \$12.6 million**

**\$2.25 million - Office of Self-Governance (OSG)** – OSG provides administrative support to 48% of all Tribes nationwide. However, OSG is poorly resourced and funding has not followed the increase transfer of workload from the BIA Regions to OSG as more Tribes enter Self-Governance. OSG is currently operating at a deficit and it does not have sufficient resources to address operational costs, such as, required travel, equipment and supplies. Financial support for OSG staff and programmatic activities are fiscally prudent and necessary to further the mission of Self-Governance and is effective and efficient spending for the Federal government.

**\$50 million - Economic Development (TPA)** - Increased funding for Economic Development will allow us to continue to diversify our successful business portfolio and expand our revenue generating opportunities resulting in a stronger Tribal economy and less dependence on the Federal component of our resources. Chronic underfunding and the severe lack of private investment have left the economic potential of our Tribe unrealized. Tribes are forced to rely on their own economic ventures to generate revenue to support programs and services for Tribal citizens. Yet, Tribes are expected to meet these economic challenges with fewer resources and greater restrictions placed on vital economic financing tools and incentives that are easily accessible and lucrative to other governments. A \$50 million investment in economic development would allow our Tribe to leverage funds and invest in business opportunities projected to create 500 jobs for Tribal citizens and our non-Indian neighbors.

**\$10 million - Natural Resources (TPA)** - In the Northwest, degradation of the environment is happening faster than we can restore it. Climate change is having profound impacts on Tribal people and Tribal Treaty Rights are at risk. The vitality and sustainability of our Natural Resources is integral to the health and welfare of our Tribal citizens, communities, cultural and religious practices and economies. Our Natural Resources Department has been invaluable navigating through the social, political and financial issues that are constantly at play in the resource arena. We are constantly striving to enhance and preserve our fishery resources and culture. These efforts have realized water quality improvements in Dungeness Bay resulting in the upgrade of 772 acres since 2011. The Federal investment in Tribal Natural Resources will continue to foster Tribal self-sufficiency and support Tribal economies by cultivating cross jurisdictional partnerships with state and local governments that create jobs and promote and advance trade. This investment also advances a number of ancillary but equally important cultural and religious practices, creates community cohesiveness and improves the environmental conditions on our Tribal homelands and in surrounding communities.

**\$15 million- Indian Guaranteed Loan Program/Surety Bonds** – The Federal government is in a unique position to help advance Tribal projects and provide sustainable economic opportunities for Indian businesses and Tribal governments through the Loan Subsidy Program. Loan guarantees are an attractive financial tool because Tribes are able to leverage limited Federal funding in a prudent budget effective way and promote economic growth by investing in projects that are capable of generating their own revenue streams. The program, however, has been consistently targeted for cuts despite its positive return on the Federal investment. If not for the Loan Guarantee Program, many Tribes would not be able to secure loans from typical sources that are available to other entities and businesses. Federal credit programs should facilitate Tribal access to private capital markets where Tribes frequently encounter market resistance to conventional lending.

**National Requests and Recommendations for the IHS:**

- 1. Support Mandatory/Advanced Appropriations for IHS**
- 2. Increase Funding to Support Current Services**
- 3. Increase Funding for Purchased and Referred Care \$562.2 million**

**Support Mandatory/Advanced Appropriations for IHS** - Tribal healthcare programs should be funded similarly to every other government health program in this country through mandatory appropriations to ensure parity and Federal obligations are met. The IHS is a critical institution that addresses the health and wellness needs of American Indians/Alaska Natives but it has never received sufficient appropriations to fully address these needs and its per capita spending is well below other health care programs. In addition to mandatory funding for Tribal healthcare, advanced appropriations should be provided. When it comes to IHS funding, delays could mean the loss of life. Late funding not only affects quality of care, it constrains Tribal healthcare providers' ability to plan, budget, recruit and retain staff, and construct and maintain facilities. Providing predictable, timely and sufficient funding will ensure the Federal government is upholding its trust responsibility to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

**Increase Funding to Support Current Services** - The Federal responsibility to provide healthcare was prepaid by the Tribes with their land and resources. In order to maintain current services, factors such as the inflationary rate, pay costs, contract support costs, population growth and staffing needs for recently constructed facilities all need to be funded at appropriate levels. When these mandatory factors are not funded, Tribes must supplement programs with their own limited revenue, or chose between limiting services or shutting down services completely. It is critical that the IHS budget honors and respects the Federal trust obligation.

**Purchased and Referred Care (PRC)** - Most IHS and Tribally-operated direct care facilities do not provide the required emergency and specialty care services so Tribes are forced to turn to the private sector to fulfill this need. PRC funds are used to purchase essential health care services, including inpatient and outpatient care, routine emergency ambulatory care, transportation and medical support services, such as diagnostic imaging, physical therapy, laboratory, nutrition and pharmacy services.

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe continues to support the requests and recommendations of our Regional and National Indian Organizations. Thank you.