

## Talking Points

- Thank you Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Grijalva for holding this hearing.
- I have the great honor of having 12 Tribes in my district. Four of these tribes are located right on the Pacific Coast and face increasing threats from extreme weather events, coastal erosion, severe flooding, and tsunami risk.
- When you have a childcare center that's just a stone's throw or two away from the ocean, your community is at risk.
- When your community's *only* health center is literally in the Tsunami Inundation Zone, your community is at risk.
- When rising sea levels are already putting people's lives and property at risk on an annual basis, your community is at risk.
- When "100 year" floods – defined as a flood so bad it should only occur once every 100 years – become a regular occurrence, your community is at risk.
- Several Tribes in my district are actively working to move their communities – including essential facilities like housing, schools, healthcare clinics, and more - to higher ground.
- Tribes urgently need federal support to mitigate risk from extreme weather events and, when necessary, relocate to safer areas.
- That's why I ask that you consider H.R.3976 – the Tribal Coastal Resiliency Act.

- This simple, commonsense bill recognizes tribal sovereignty by amending the Coastal Zone Management Act to allow tribal governments to directly compete for Coastal Zone Management Grants, instead of requiring them to petition states to prioritize their projects.
- This parity is essential given the severe challenges tribal governments face in implementing coastal and shoreline measures that support public safety, public access, and cultural and historic preservation.
- The Tribal Coastal Resiliency Act was reported favorably by this committee last Congress and passed the House on suspension in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- I also ask that you consider the Tribal Environmental Resiliency Resources Act, or TERRA Act, which I will be introducing later this Congress.
- The TERRA Act aims to streamline federal programs and supports for Tribes facing extreme weather events and natural disasters, including flooding, extreme temperatures, wildfires, hurricanes, and other hazards.
- Currently, Tribes must navigate a jumble of potential resources and programs across the federal government. Each program comes with its own regulatory strings, reporting requirements, cost shares, and other processes that make the programs difficult or impossible for Tribes to access.
- The TERRA Act would improve governmental efficiency by establishing an interagency framework at the Department of

Interior responsible for supporting the prevention, mitigation, and relief efforts of Tribal communities threatened by extreme weather and natural disasters.

- Under the framework, the Department of Interior would work with Tribes to integrate existing federal resources into a single comprehensive Plan tailored to address the Tribes' specific needs and goals.
- The Department would be able to streamline statutory, regulatory, and administrative requirements to reduce the burden on Tribes – and federal agencies.
- Together, the Tribal Coastal Resiliency Act and the TERRA Act would help ensure Tribes get the resources and supports they need to address existential threats to their communities – and would uphold the federal government's trust and treaty obligations to tribal nations.
- I'd like to close today by thanking you for your support of H.R.929 – the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Land Into Confirmation Act, which this committee ordered reported with unanimous support.
- This bill takes 17 acres of land currently owned by the Tribe into trust, restoring part of the Tribe's ancestral homeland and allowing the Tribe to pursue economic development and job creation opportunities.
- I look forward to working with you to get this bill over the finish line.

- Thank you again for your time and for your leadership on these issues.
- I yield back.