



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON —

August 5, 2025

The Honorable Patty Murray
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C.

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C.

The Honorable Emily Randall
1531 Longworth House Office
Washington D.C.

Dear Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell, and Congresswoman Randall,

On behalf of the State of Washington, I am writing to express support for proposed federal legislation (see attached) to amend the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Settlement Act of 1989. As a party to the original Settlement Agreement, the State values its longstanding relationship with the Tribe and recognizes the significance of this thoughtful update to a historic agreement.

This legislation would allow the Puyallup Tribe to directly manage and invest the \$22 million Permanent Trust Fund created under the Settlement. At the time of the original Act, federal law did not yet provide a pathway for tribal self-management of trust funds. That has since changed with the passage of the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994.

I understand the original Trust Fund Board was established with good intentions. However, the Tribe has experienced limited effectiveness due to the realities of time, cost, and economic changes since its establishment. This amendment would bring the Act into alignment with those reforms, by providing a path forward for the Tribe to develop a management plan to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior. This amendment would also allow the Tribe to build on their foundation of economic diversification and growth by converting the fund into an endowment to support education, social services, and other priorities that directly benefit the Puyallup people.

The State of Washington is proud to support the Puyallup Tribe in this effort and we appreciate your continued leadership on matters most important to Tribal Nations and their communities.

Sincerely,

Bob Ferguson
Governor

ATTACHMENT: Proposed legislation

H.R.____/S.____

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled

To provide for an amendment to the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Settlement Act of 1989

Section 1. Withdrawal of Permanent Trust Fund for Tribal Members

Section 6(b) of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Settlement Act of 1989 Public Law 101-41 is amended by adding a new section

(6) the Trust Fund may be withdrawn by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians pursuant to the provisions of the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act, 25 U.S.C. 4011-et seq., under a management plan approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

And by adding a new Section 14:

Nothing in this Act shall be interpreted to prevent the United States from engaging with the Puyallup Tribe, on the same basis as other federally recognized Indian tribes, under any federal law enacted after the date of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Settlement Act of 1989.