

July 29, 2025



People. Partnership. Performance.

P.O. Box 1837
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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 Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell, and Congresswoman Randall:

On behalf of the Port of Tacoma, I am writing to express our full support for proposed federal legislation to amend the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Settlement Act of 1989. As a party to the original Settlement Agreement, we deeply value our longstanding partnership with the Tribe and recognize the importance of this update in strengthening the original intent of the Settlement.

The proposed legislation would authorize the Puyallup Tribe to directly manage and invest the \$22 million Permanent Trust Fund established under the Settlement. While federal law at the time lacked a pathway for tribal fund self-management, the subsequent enactment of the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 provides the necessary framework for this transition.

We believe the Puyallup Tribe has consistently demonstrated sound governance, financial stewardship, and a strong commitment to community investment. Converting the Fund into an endowment will enable stable, long-term support for core programs such as education, health, and social services. This thoughtful change honors the spirit of the original Settlement while responding to the realities of today.

We understand that the original Trust Fund Board was established with good intentions, but the realities of time, cost, and economic change have limited its effectiveness. This proposal offers a practical solution that strengthens the foundation of the original Settlement and reflects the trust the Tribe has earned through years of sound governance and collaboration.

We are proud to support the Puyallup Tribe in this effort and commend your continued leadership on behalf of Tribal Nations and their communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John McCarthy".

John McCarthy, Commission President
Port of Tacoma Commission

cc: Port of Tacoma Commission