



Pierce County

Office of Executive Ryan N. Mello

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Executive

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July 15, 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.

The Honorable Marilyn Strickland
1531 Longworth House Office
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell, Congresswoman Strickland and Congresswoman Randall:

On behalf of Pierce County, I am writing to express our 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 value the longstanding partnership we have shared with the Tribe and recognize 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. This amendment brings the Act into alignment with those reforms.

The Puyallup Tribe has consistently demonstrated sound governance and a strong commitment to long-term community investment. From our perspective as a longstanding partner, the Tribe has earned a reputation for responsible leadership and thoughtful financial management. This amendment would allow the Tribe to build on that foundation by converting the fund into an endowment that supports education, social services, and other priorities that directly benefit its members.

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 appreciate your continued leadership on matters important to Tribal Nations and their communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan N. Mello". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ryan" being more prominent.

Ryan N. Mello
Pierce County Executive