



**Confederated Tribes and Bands
Of the Yakama Nation**

Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855

June 20, 2019

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary
2141 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Doug Collins
Ranking Member
House Committee of the Judiciary
2141 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler and Grijalva and Ranking Members Collins and Bishop

Shix Patchway. On behalf of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, I am writing to in support of Savannah's Act, H.R. 2733 and to invite the House Committee on the Judiciary and House Committee on Natural Resources to conduct a field hearing on the proposed legislation at the Yakama Reservation.

We are truly to grateful to Representatives Dan Newhouse, Norma Torres and Deb Haaland for introducing Savanna's Act. For many years the Yakama Nation has made formal requests to the Department of Justice and Bureau of Indian Affairs to assistant with locating missing persons, and solving the unsolved homicide cases that have occurred on and around the Yakama Reservation – with no response or action by the Governmental Agencies.

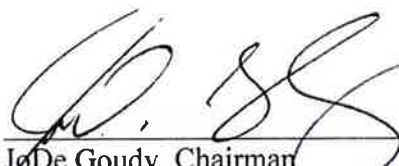
The Yakama Nation Tribal Council has formed a Special Committee for this very important issue, The Yakama Nation Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Committee. The Committee has been gathering community input through informal and formal processes, and working to implement action items in response. On January 14, 2019, the Committee hosted a meeting at the Yakama Nation Legends Casino that gathered input and shared actions item and was well attended by many law enforcement agencies and a representative from Governor Jay Inlsee's Office.

The Yakama Nation has supported the Washington State Legislature's work to address the ongoing MMIW crisis, specifically Washington State HB 2951 and SB 1713. As the Yakama Nation testified in Olympia, there needs to be a genuine response to the reports of missing and murdered Native women and girls across Tribal lands. Also, all new legislation needs to be guided by a clear strategic framework and principles to move beyond the current conditions endangering our lives and future generations of Native women and girls.

The Yakama Nation is formally requesting a field hearing on our Yakama Lands to address the issues relating to the missing and murdered women and peoples and the need for Savanna's Act, H.R. 2733. We would like your Committees to have an opportunity to hear firsthand from our community as well as other impacted Tribes.

The Yakama Nation offers our assistance to the Committees to facilitate true action by the United States to address the crisis facing Native communities nationwide.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your response.



JoDe Goudy, Chairman
Yakama Nation Tribal Council