



Samish Indian Nation

OF WASHINGTON

June 18, 2019

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

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

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

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

Dear Chairmen Nadler and Grijalva and Ranking Members Collins and Bishop,

I am writing on behalf of the Samish Indian Nation to share the importance to our people of *Savanna's Act*, introduced by Representatives Dan Newhouse (R-WA), Norma Torres (D-CA), and Deb Haaland (D-OK) to address the devastating issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) that impacts tribal communities here in Washington and across the country. I am also writing to underscore the importance of hearing directly from the tribal communities that have been impacted by this epidemic.

Indigenous Women in Washington have especially been impacted by the crisis, with currently 71 open cases statewide. Samish Indian Nation has not escaped this impact, as our late former Chairwoman lost her daughter-in-law in a violent criminal act over 30 years ago, and that case has even to this day never been solved.

With this in mind, we ask you to hold a field hearing in Central Washington to bring together Tribal leaders, local and Tribal law enforcement, and other community stakeholders and hear firsthand accounts of the MMIW crisis and how legislation like *Savanna's Act* would help ensure justice for Native Women and their families.

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership and advocacy for our Nation's Native Communities. I look forward to welcoming you to Washington and to a collective response to this crisis.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. Wooten
Chairman