



Puyallup Tribe of Indians



June 27, 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 Raúl 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 Chairmen Nadler and Grijalva and Ranking Members Collins and Bishop,


I am writing on behalf of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians to share our collective support of Savanna's Act, H. R. 2733 introduced by Representatives Dan Newhouse (R-WA), Norma Torres (D-CA), and Deb Haaland (D-OK). The issue of missing and murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) has had devastating impacts on tribal communities in Washington State and across Indian Country. The Puyallup Tribe has not been immune to this crisis as we have several missing or murdered tribal members whose cases remain unsolved.

The Urban Indian Health Institute reports that Washington State ranks second in the nation for missing and murdered indigenous women. In data collected on urban areas, Seattle is number one, and Tacoma is number two. With this data in mind we respectfully and urgently stress the importance for the committees to hear directly from the communities hit the hardest as you discuss policies that will impact them the most.

We support Yakama Nation's invitation to the House Committee on the Judiciary and House Committee on Natural Resources to conduct a field hearing on the proposed legislation. Hosting a field hearing in Central Washington would be a meaningful opportunity to gather a diverse community of Tribal leaders, law enforcement, and community stakeholders and hear firsthand how legislation like Savanna's Act is needed to assure justice for Native women and the loved ones they've left behind.

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

Sincerely,



David Z. Bean, Chairman
Puyallup Tribal Council