

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 21, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol, S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, H-204
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader McCarthy:

We wish to thank you for all your efforts in addressing the COVID-19 virus that has so deeply impacted our country. As you continue negotiations on the next relief package, we want to express our continued support for resources to help Indian Country address the unique challenges they face in this difficult time. As you know, Indian Country has suffered particularly high rates of coronavirus with complicating factors such as obesity, diabetes, and other preexisting conditions.

If funding is provided to state and local governments, we strongly encourage the inclusion of funding for tribal governments, as well. There remain tremendous obligations in Indian Country for health care, social programs, housing assistance, and other direct service programs, and additional support is critical to help tribal governments address the needs of their citizens.

Additionally, tribal governments deserve greater flexibility to spend these funds in a manner that meets the individual needs of each tribe. Allowing greater flexibility would enable tribal governments to use their resources in the most efficient manner. Further, we ask that tribes be given additional time beyond the December 30, 2020, deadline to spend any funds provided by the Coronavirus Relief Fund established by Title V of the CARES Act.

Again, these issues are critical to Indian Country as tribal governments continue to provide services to their citizens as they struggle to combat this virus. We appreciate you taking the time to consider our views on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Jerry Moran
United States Senator



John Barrasso
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510



Steve Daines
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



Todd Young
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator




Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Martha McSally
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Steven Mnuchin, Secretary of the Treasury;
Mark Meadows, White House Chief of Staff