



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 30, 2017

The Honorable Senator Steve Daines
United States Senator for Montana
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Sophie_Miller@daines.senate.gov

Re: Repurposing Tribal Court Protection Order Registry Funding

Dear Senator Daines,

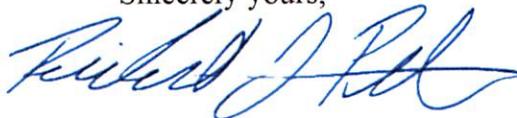
The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) offers its support to repurpose the funds authorized and appropriated under VAWA 2005 Safety for Indian Women Title to create a tribal Domestic Violence Protection Order and Sex Offender database, specifically to direct the funds to expand the Tribal Access Program (TAP). While repurposing the funds allocated for the tribal registries will allow the funds to support urgently needed resources to expand the TAP program, we strongly urge reworking eligibility requirements so that all tribes within Alaska would be eligible for this program. While we do have Village Public Safety Officers in some of our villages, these are not 24-hour a day, dispatched officers. We do not have the resources for the Law Enforcement requirements in any of our villages nor a sex offender registry, thus none of our communities would be eligible. We need to access the NCIC databases for legitimate governmental purposes, and TAP is the perfect vehicle for all tribes to accomplish this mechanism.

The historical territory of Tlingit & Haida, spans from the southern reaches of the Alaska Panhandle in Hyدابurg, to the northernmost reaches of Tlingit country in Yakutat and represents 21 communities. Juneau, where the Tlingit & Haida administrative office is located, and also the capital of Alaska, is seeing an increased native population thus a potential bigger service population for Tlingit & Haida. Many rural natives, who are not originally from Southeast Alaskan villages, are moving to the Juneau area and include the entire spectrum of Alaska Native ethnicities, from the Yupik and Inupiat Eskimos of northern and western Alaska, to the Aleut, Eyak and Aleutiiq along the coast of the Gulf of Alaska, to the Athabascan of the Interior. In addition, we provide governmental services to our villages, including court services, and regularly issue protection orders and child welfare placement orders in Indian Child Welfare Act proceedings, both legitimate uses to access the NCIC systems.

Again, it is important to repeat, a large percentage of Indian tribes under the current system are not eligible for the TAP program as it currently exists and there should be a framework for Alaska tribes to participate. Alaska tribes are still faced with challenges to protecting their women and children from violence and perpetrators and access to the TAP

program for Alaska Tribes would give us another safety tool.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard J. Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "P".

Richard J. Peterson, President
Tlingit & Haida

Cc: Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Dan Sullivan