

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 23, 2021

The Honorable Janet Yellen  
Secretary  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen:

We are writing to respectfully request the establishment of an Office of Tribal Affairs within the Department of Treasury. The Department plays an important role in navigating the relationship between tribal nations and the federal government, and the recent tribal consultations held between tribal nations and the Department demonstrate a pressing need for an Office of Tribal Affairs.

The Department maintains a long standing and significant role in matters that seriously affect the welfare and sovereignty of tribal nations. As of recently, this role has expanded even further with the delegation of authority that Congress has granted to the Department in distributing pandemic relief funds. The Department also has other programs that make decisions affecting tribal nations and their citizens such as the Internal Revenue Service, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Community Development Financial Institutions Program, and the Office of Recovery Programs. It is imperative that the Department secure in-house expertise that is familiar with Indian Country and is wholly dedicated to fulfilling the federal trust responsibility.

In October of 2020, the Affiliated Tribe of Northwest Indians (ATNI) called upon the President and Congress to establish new executive branch positions to promote nation-to-nation relationship with tribal nations. ATNI issued a resolution specifically requesting the appointment of a new Assistant Secretary for Indian Country and Alaska Native Development at the Department of Treasury. In November of 2020, the National Congress of American Indians made a similar request, asking for the establishment of a new Assistant Attorney General for Indian Capital Finance, Tax Incentives, Economic Development, and Trade Policy at the Department of Treasury. There is a clear desire and need to establish an Office of Indian Affairs at the Department.

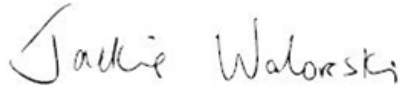
Earlier this year, President Biden issued a Memorandum directing the heads of executive departments and agencies to reinvigorate the consultation process with tribal nations. It is a priority of this administration to fulfill the federal trust responsibility, and the establishment of an Office of Indian Affairs would be a step forward in meaningfully fulfilling this responsibility. We look forward to seeing action on this matter. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



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Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress



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Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



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David Schweikert  
Member of Congress



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Tom Reed  
Member of Congress



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Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress