



Spokane Tribe of Indians

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The Honorable Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
1314 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 14, 2018

In lieu of pending legislation, S. 995, a bill to provide equitable compensation for the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, and for other purposes, which has been before the Congress since 2004, the Spokane Tribe of Indians Business Council (TBC) would like to propose the following path forward to seeing the legislation signed into law.

The legislation currently contains a \$53 million payment of past use of the land and an annual payment of 25% of the Colville Settlement Act's Computed Annual Payment from the Bonneville Power Administration. The longer the legislation goes unpassed, the longer the Spokane Tribe is wrongfully missing out on economic opportunity for educational, health, recreational and social welfare assistance and growth.

The TBC has come to the conclusion that it is time for this legislation to pass, and to remove any remaining roadblocks. The TBC will agree to receive the annual payments as they stand in the legislation, and will agree to work with Congress to remove the \$53 million payment of past use from the legislation.

The Spokane Tribe's life, culture, economy and religion center around the rivers that were wrongfully impacted with the construction of the Grand Coulee Dam. The TBC hopes that with removing this roadblock, this legislation will be passed within this Congress.

Sincerely,

Carol Evans
Chairman, Spokane Tribe of Indians