



COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon • Crow Creek Sioux Tribe • Crow Nation
Eastern Shoshone Tribe • Fort Belknap Indian Community • Hopi Tribe • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Mescalero Apache Tribe
Muscogee (Creek) Nation • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe • Northern Cheyenne Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe
San Carlos Apache Tribe • Shoshone-Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation
Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe • Spirit Lake Nation • Spokane Tribe Standing Rock Sioux Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe • Walker River Paiute Tribe

Resolution: 04-21-2026 #2

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SUBSTANTIAL REFORM OF THE TRIBAL INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL (TIBC)

WHEREAS, the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) was formally established in early April 2011, and is comprised of Tribes with large land base, including the Blackfeet Nation, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Crow Nation, Eastern Shoshone Tribe, Fort Belknap Indian Community, Hopi Tribe, Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Navajo Nation, Northern Arapaho Tribe, Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, San Carlos Apache Tribe, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation, Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, Spirit Lake Nation, Spokane Tribe, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Walker River Paiute Tribe, and is Chaired by J. Garret Renville of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation, South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, COLT was organized to provide a unified advocacy base on all issues affecting Tribes that govern large trust land bases and that strive to ensure the most beneficial use of those lands for Tribes and individual Indian landowners; and

WHEREAS, COLT further advocates for legislative, regulatory, and policy reforms that impact large land base Tribes and our citizens; and

WHEREAS, in Treaties, the United States pledged to protect Indian Tribes, guaranteed the right of Tribal self-government, protection, safety and economic development, and has undertaken a Trust responsibility to promote the viability of Indian reservations and lands as permanent homelands for Tribes. Our Treaties are binding contracts in perpetuity entered into in exchange for the lands that make our United States of America great; and

WHEREAS, COLT believes it is imperative we remind the U.S. Government that Treaties are the Law of the Land and that Treaties and Sovereignty are “cornerstones” of the Budget process and Federal Indian policy to effectuate the nation-to-nation agreements between us. Congress and



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the President are vested with Treaty authority and the Budget process must follow the Treaties to protect those intergovernmental agreements; and

WHEREAS, under the U.S. Constitution, “all Treaties made” are “the supreme Law of the Land.” Art. VI, cl. 2. Congress can pass laws to implement those treaties, *see, e.g., Bond v. United States*, 572 U. S. 844, 851, 855 (2014), and the Executive Branch must act in accordance with them, *see, e.g., Fok Yung Yo v. United States*, 185 U. S. 296, 303 (1902). A Treaty is “essentially a contract between two sovereign nations.” *Washington v. Washington State Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel Assn.*, 443 U. S. 658, 675 (1979). COLT Tribes’ Treaties with the United States contain numerous obligations for the United States to provide healthcare, law enforcement, economic development and other supports that manifest in modern form the Federal Budget. The United States must honor its Treaty obligations and emphasize them in the Budget process per the intergovernmental contracts between us; and

WHEREAS, Congress has chronically underfunded the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) resulting in insufficient funding for Tribes, including for COLT-member Tribes and their Tribal citizens that rely on programs implemented by the BIA and have vast needs for Tribal government resources and services for their citizens; and

WHEREAS, a cause of the BIA’s chronic underfunding is that Congress has not appropriated funding at the true level of need at the BIA and has also subjected BIA’s funding to discretionary funding through the annual appropriations process as opposed to mandatory funding; and

WHEREAS, adequate funding is essential to public safety and yet unmet need as to public safety is right up front in the Tribal Law and Order Report released by BIA-OJS in March 2024:

This report fulfills the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) reporting requirements (see Appendix C) in the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 regarding existing and needed spending, staffing, and estimated costs for BIA-funded Public Safety and Justice Programs in Indian Country for 2021. **Overall, Indian country BIA public safety and justice is funded at just under 13% of total need and an additional 25,655 personnel are required to adequately serve Indian country.** The need estimates are driven by scalable budget



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models applying operational benchmarks such as the Department of Justice benchmark of 2.8 officers per thousand members of the service population.

(Emphasis supplied).

As of the 2021 budget, we are \$3 billion short on public safety and justice. 87% of Indian Country's need is completely unmet; and

WHEREAS, many of our Treaties contain promises as to agriculture, housing and education and the United States fulfills these promises to Tribes and Tribal citizens today through the Departments of Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, and Education, among other Departments; and

WHEREAS, neither Tribes nor the United States can fulfill their mission of Tribal self-determination if Tribal governments have only one quarter or one third of the resources that the Department of the Interior has determined are the minimum needed to maintain the status quo, let alone support Tribal progress. This is true across Federal departments; and

WHEREAS, since 1999, the Tribal Interior Budget Council (TIBC) has sought to provide a forum and process, consistent with the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, 25 USC 5303 *et seq.*, to increase Tribal participation in federal budgeting for Indian Affairs programs, with Tribes and the Department of the Interior working together to develop policy and budgets that promote:

- 1) DOI to fulfill its Trust responsibilities and Treaty obligations; and
- 2) the fulfillment of Tribes' inherent sovereign rights of self-determination, self-governance, and self-sufficiency, as well as securing levels of funding necessary to strengthen Tribal governmental capacity to serve their Tribal citizens and communities.

TIBC was intended to establish a formal government-to-government forum where Tribal leaders could:

- Participate in shaping the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) budget
- Provide input before the President's budget submission



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This aligned with broader federal policy emphasizing Tribal self-determination and consultation. But in COLT’s view, TIBC has been a consistent and continuing failure, resulting in gross inequity for large land base Tribes and underfunding for all of Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, COLT believes TIBC must be substantially reformed to address persistent problems, including inequities in Tribal representation and funding formulas; limited time for substantive budget discussions; and the ongoing disconnect between Tribal priorities and final federal budgets.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) supports very substantial TIBC reforms, including at least the following preliminary changes:

1. Abandonment of the 2 representatives per Region structure. TIBC is not the Senate. All Regions are not equal. Large land base tribes govern more than 95% of Indian lands and represent more than half the Native American population in the United States, yet our votes are routinely diluted, if not omitted entirely, as Regions often fail to select dedicated large land base leaders for TIBC. Population and Land Base should be key factors for TIBC voting representation.

TIBC should be expanded to reflect Treaty rights, population and land base. Treating TIBC like the Senate with two reps per Region disenfranchises large land base Tribes and drives funding to priorities for small tribes without the responsibility for delivery of large-scale governmental services across vast distances. TIBC participation and votes should be much more like the House of Representatives than the Senate—with land base and population-based voting rights; and all TIBC representatives should be elected Tribal officials. They can bring whatever technical staff they like, but TIBC is a Tribal leader function because it is government-to-government, not staff-to-government. All Subcommittees also should be expanded to allow more equitable and meaningful participation.

TIBC should account for differences in PL 280, 638, and Self-Governance.

2. Strict Attendance / Delegation / Reporting Requirements. Those selected for TIBC frequently fail to attend, or to ensure that an Alternate attends, and fail to report back



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to the other Tribes in their Regions as to what occurred in the meetings. Better Administrative support (including potential AI use) should create summaries of all TIBC and Committee meetings that are stored and accessible for Tribal leaders at all times.

3. Much Better Technology. All TIBC meetings should be accessible to all Tribal leaders via Zoom. There is absolutely no reason that Tribal leaders should not be able to participate virtually and get real-time information. This is easily accomplished with Wi-Fi and OWLs. It is absurd that we do not have this as a requirement for TIBC.
4. Easier accessibility. TIBC meetings should only be held in easily-accessible major cities. It is impractical to support out-of-the-way coastal tribal facilities that require 2 to 3 flights for large land base leaders to get to, and renting of cars, etc. Selection of “favored facilities” might benefit the host Tribe, but it places unnecessary cost and time burdens on large land base Tribal leaders. COLT recommends meetings be held in Washington, DC, Las Vegas, Denver, and Minneapolis as hubs that make sense and have more affordable and convenient travel options, and / or reasonable Tribal homelands.
5. Timely Sharing of Presentations and Information. All TIBC meeting materials should be circulated at least one full calendar week in advance of any meeting. We often do not receive materials until after TIBC meetings, or things are only presented in too-small print on a single screen during a presentation. Again, this is ridiculous. Tribal leaders should have the respect of being able to review materials in advance to be prepared to devote as much time as possible to substantive discussions.
6. Preparation / Orientation Meetings. Committee work should proceed apace before TIBC meetings so meeting time can be devoted to substantive discussion, rather than constantly rereading basics as happens now. A standard “TIBC Orientation” should be recorded, and required to be completed, by any Tribal leader registering to participate in a TIBC meeting, just like many employers now require for standard employment trainings. There is no reason that we should ever again have to endure wasted time when people fail to understand the differing roles of the Legislative and Executive Branches in federal funding.



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7. No more pet projects presentations or useless subcommittees, like the “Data Subcommittee.” TIBC time should be focused on the federal budget. We should not lose time to discussions of individual tribes’ successes. While things like forestry projects might be celebrated, TIBC is not the place to do that. This is a budget discussion, not a broader policy forum.

The onus of the Pay Costs updates should be on the Department to complete, not on TIBC or Tribes. The Department should have constant follow-up at the Region and Superintendent levels to communicate the importance of the data and ensure that each Region has 100% participation and timely data. The Department’s unmotivated tolerance for non-participation or the submission of old data harms the tribes that do timely submit timely data. Our employees should not suffer because of bureaucratic inertia.

8. Inclusion and Continuing Education of OMB, PMB, and Senate and House Appropriations staff. COLT recommends TIBC host a soonest “Tribal Budgeting Bootcamp” for OMB and PMB, to be followed by a similar event for Senate and House appropriators. In recent years, both the Executive and Legislative branches have experienced departures of long-time contributors. The most critical participants in the Tribal budgeting process are not at the TIBC table. We need to at least make sure we are educating those folks and regularly engaging with them about our shared priorities.
9. Enhanced Professionalism for TIBC Administration. TIBC should have timely agendas, updates and information. In recent years, this has not happened. We also need emergency response assistance, for example, to ensure Tribes can still make drawdowns in the event of a federal government shutdown, such as detailing Awarding Officials between Regions. COLT has done this outside the TIBC process in recent years. TIBC should help in budget implementation, not just provide static formulation input.
10. Abandon “Priorities” Scoring. We need a new Budget Formulation that accounts for the challenges of Large Land Base Tribes, our rurality, our distance, our greater



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suffering with inflation and distance on the cost of goods. Filling out forms to make impossible choices—such as having to pick between law enforcement and children’s services—is not a good use of Tribal leaders’ time.

TIBC needs to be radically reformed to address these issues, and to move Indian Affairs to Mandatory and Advance Appropriations; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be the policy of the Coalition of Large Tribes until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

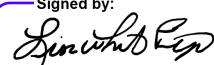
This resolution was approved for policy action following significant TIBC discussion at a duly-called meeting of the Coalition of Large Tribes held at Inn of the Mountain Gods on the Mescalero Apache Reservation on April 21, 2026, at which a quorum was present, with the resolution approved unanimously and unanimously as to form in Executive Committee with a quorum present on May 18, 2026.

Attest:

Signed by:

EDB3CD26B0764EE...

J. Garret Renville, Chairman, Coalition of Large Tribes

Signed by:

AB79A0D2A3544B1...

Lisa White Pipe, Secretary / Treasurer, Coalition of Large Tribes