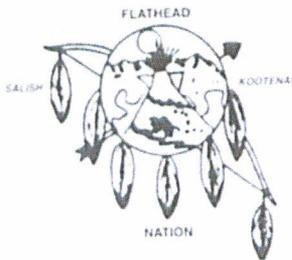


THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD NATION

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A People of Vision



A Confederation of the Salish,
Pend d' Oreilles
and Kootenai Tribes

House of Representatives
General Government Committee
Honorable Ryan Osmundson, Chairman
Honorable Alan Olson, Vice Chairman
63rd Montana State Legislature
Capital Building
Helena, Montana

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joe Durglo - Chairman
Carole Lankford - Vice Chair
Reuben A. Mathias - Secretary
Ron Trahan - Treasurer
Leonard W. Gray
Lloyd D. Irvine
Steve Lozar
Jim Malatara
James Bing Matt
Terry Pitts

RE: Tribal Support for Commerce Department Budget and in particular the Indian Country Economic Development (ICED) Grants

Chairman Osmundson and Honorable Committee Members,

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT or Tribes) strongly support the proposed budget for the State of Montana Commerce Department and, in particular, the funds allocated to the Indian Country Economic Development Grants commonly known as the "ICED funds".

The ICED grants are a direct investment in Indian Country in areas of high poverty and low wages. Since the 59th legislative assembly, the State of Montana has made a priority to invest in tribal economic development projects. All tribal nations have used the funds wisely, matching tribal dollars with state dollars to create and leverage the greatest impact, even with limited tribal funds. This collaboration has created a unique partnership between the State and local tribes, which must be continued. Many of the funded projects have created jobs and facilitated job retention and workforce development.

The CSKT hope that the ICED grants can be made a permanent part of the reoccurring Commerce budget. We believe that investing in Indian Country is a wise decision. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joe Durglo, Chairman