



PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee

66th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

JEN GROSS
DAN SALOMON
JASON SMALL
FRANK SMITH

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JADE BAHR
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CASEY KNUDSEN
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JOE READ
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COMMITTEE STAFF

HOPE STOCKWELL, Lead Staff
LAURA SANKEY KEIP, Staff Attorney
LAURA SHERLEY, Secretary

August 24, 2020

Chairman Floyd Azure
Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board
501 Medicine Bear Road
Poplar, MT 59255

Dear Chairman Floyd Azure:

In 2019, the Montana Legislature committed to compiling credible data about the economic contributions and impacts of reservations in Montana on a decennial basis with the passage of House Bill No. 632. The legislation, sponsored by Representative Jade Bahr, tasked the Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) at the University of Montana to again author the report, which it first published in November 2007.

The original report and an update published by the Montana Department of Commerce in October 2016 determined that tribal governments in Montana contribute more than \$1 billion annually to the state's economy. Legislators found that information invaluable. However, the second report was long outdated before the ink was dry, as the most current set of data used was from Fiscal Year 2009.

As the legislature's liaison with tribes in Montana, the State-Tribal Relations Committee (STRC) hopes the new decennial report will be timelier but we need your help. The STRC respectfully asks for your assistance in identifying tribal entities and key points of contact for the BBER to obtain financial data in five revenue categories (federal, state, earned, fiduciary, and various) for Fiscal Years 2010 through 2018.

The importance of the monetary contributions of the reservations in Montana, direct and indirect, cannot be understated. With your collaboration, we hope a new report can showcase the latest data by year's end.

Thank you for your consideration of and swift action in this matter.

Sincerely,


Senator Jason Small, Chair


Representative Rae Peppers, Vice Chair



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August 24, 2020

Chairman Harlan Gopher Baker
Chippewa Cree Tribal Business Committee
31 Agency Square
Box Elder, MT 59521

Dear Chairman Harlan Gopher Baker:

In 2019, the Montana Legislature committed to compiling credible data about the economic contributions and impacts of reservations in Montana on a decennial basis with the passage of House Bill No. 632. The legislation, sponsored by Representative Jade Bahr, tasked the Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) at the University of Montana to again author the report, which it first published in November 2007.

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August 24, 2020

Chairman Timothy Davis
Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
PO Box 850
Browning, MT 59417

Dear Chairman Timothy Davis:

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August 24, 2020

Chairman Gerald Gray
Little Shell Chippewa Tribal Council
625 Central Avenue Suite 100
Great Falls, MT 59401

Dear Chairman Gerald Gray:

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August 24, 2020

Chairman Alvin Not Afraid, Jr.
Crow Nation Executive Branch
PO Box 159
Crow Agency, MT 59022

Dear Chairman Alvin Not Afraid, Jr.:

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Chairwoman Shelly Fyant
CSKT Tribal Council
42487 Complex Blvd
Pablo, MT 59855

Dear Chairwoman Shelly Fyant:

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August 24, 2020

President Andy Werk Jr.
Fort Belknap Indian Community Tribal Council
656 Agency Main Street
Harlem, MT 59526

Dear President Andy Werk Jr.:

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President Rynalea Whiteman Peña
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
600 Cheyenne Avenue
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Dear President Rynalea Whiteman Peña:

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