



Self-Governance Communication & Education Tribal Consortium

314 W 14th Pl • Tulsa, Oklahoma • 74119 • 918.370.4258 • www.tribalselfgov.org

Sent electronically to: naomi.miguel@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
House of Representatives

RE: Support for the “Requirements, Expectations, and Standard Procedures for Effective Consultation with Tribes Act (RESPECT Act)”

Dear Chairman Grijalva,

The Self-Governance Communication and Education Tribal Consortium (SGCETC), a non-profit consortium that represents the interests of more than 375 Tribal governments that redefined their relationship with the Federal government through Self-Governance agreements, supports the proposed House bill—“Requirements, Expectations, and Standard Procedures for Effective Consultation with Tribes Act (RESPECT Act)”—that strengthens the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Tribal governments.

Executive directives and some laws, such as the National Historic Preservation Act, call for Federal agencies to consult with Tribal governments on activities that may have Tribal implications. For example, Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000 (Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments), calls for agencies to establish “an accountable process to ensure meaningful and timely input by tribal officials in the development of regulatory policies that have tribal implications.” The Presidential Memorandum of November 5, 2009 (Tribal Consultation), requires each agency to prepare and periodically update a detailed plan of action to implement the policies and directives of Executive Order 13175. The Presidential Memorandum of January 26, 2021 (*Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships*) reaffirms the Tribal Consultation policy and emphasizes that “the Federal government has much to learn from

Tribal Nations and strong communication is fundamental to a constructive relationship.” It is encouraging that several Administrations over the last 20 years have supported Executive Order 13175, but it can be revoked at any time and is only applicable to Executive branch activities.

The RESPECT Act is a significant step forward in the government-to-government relationship as it codifies Tribal consultation for Federal agencies. The bill establishes the framework for a formal process that will help ensure meaningful consultation with Tribal Nations is an integral part of the Federal decision-making process when Federal actions impact Tribal lands and interests. We believe this legislation reinforces Tribal Nations’ inherent right to self-government, and demonstrates a new era of respect for Tribal sovereignty.

We truly appreciate your longstanding commitment to support the government-to-government relationship and we will share a few recommendations for your consideration that could strengthen the framework already presented in the RESPECT Act in the coming days.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Ron Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe
President of the Board of Directors, SGCETC