

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Tracy Stone-Manning  
Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Manning:

We write to build upon our bipartisan success in enacting the *Recreation and Public Purposes Tribal Parity Act* in the final days of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. Thank you for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) strong support for our legislation, and for the testimony highlighting how our legislation strengthens opportunities for Tribal engagement in the management of federal lands. We share BLM's view that including Tribes as one of the entities eligible under the Recreation & Public Purposes Act (R&PP) is a long overdue fix to bring parity to Tribal Nations, and are proud to have partnered with the Administration in this effort.

Because of the law's enactment, we understand that the Department of the Interior will now be able to transfer a parcel of property that the Chico State Enterprises, an auxiliary of California State University – Chico currently has in its possession to the Susanville Indian Rancheria. The Tribe has a deep cultural, historical, and geographical connection to this land, and in accordance with the R&PP, are planning to use this site for cultural, educational, and recreational purposes only.

But this law can have a much more widespread impact for Tribal governments in California and across the nation, which is why we write to ask that the BLM conduct extensive outreach to Tribal governments about the opportunities for land acquisition and conveyance under the R&PP. While state and local governments have been leasing and purchasing public lands for recreational or public purposes for over a century, it is unlikely that Tribal governments across the country are aware of the opportunities under R&PP following enactment of our legislation. Conducting this outreach would also help BLM fulfill its trust responsibility to Tribal governments. We ask that you keep us apprised of BLM's plans for Tribal engagement, and want you to know that we stand ready to assist in any way we can.

Thank you again for your partnership, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that Tribal Nations have increased opportunities to participate in the management of public lands.

Sincerely,



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress