

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW
TRIBAL CONSULTATION
(Volume 1)

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2 Speakers:

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4 Assistant Secretary
5 Bureau of Indian Affairs
6 United States Department of the Interior

7 JAMES SIMMONS
8 Chairman
9 Yurok Tribe

10 TOMMY BEAUDREAU
11 Deputy Secretary of the Interior

12 MITCH LANDRIEU
13 Senior Advisor on Infrastructure
14 Coordination

15 TANYA TRUJILLO
16 Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
17 United States Department of the Interior

18 JEFF RUPERT
19 Director, Office of Wild Land Fire Management
20 Program

21 SARAH GREENBERGER
22 Associate Deputy Secretary

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Deputy Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife
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6 CAROL EVANS
7 Chairwoman
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12 JOE DAVIS
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15 TIM HARRIS
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29 JOSEPH ANDREW
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (2:02 p.m.)

3 MS. BROWN: Welcome to the Bipartisan
4 Infrastructure Law and thank you for joining us.
5 As a reminder this is a government-to-government
6 consultation. If you are with the press, we ask
7 that you disconnect at this time. Thank you all
8 for joining. I will turn it over to Assistant
9 Secretary Newland. Thank you.

10 MR. NEWLAND: Egrets thank you, Rachel.
11 (Speaks in Native language) Today, good morning,
12 friends and relatives. My name is Bryan Newland.
13 I'm the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
14 here at the Department of the Interior, and I'm
15 honored to be with you today on this important
16 consultation. And we have many of you joining us
17 from across Indian country and senior leadership
18 from across the Department of the Interior here
19 with us today.

20 Before we get started, we want to make
21 sure that we begin this consultation as we always
22 try to do in a good way with words of prayer and

1 blessing from folks across Indian country. And
2 today we have Chairman James from the Yurok Tribe
3 who has graciously agreed to provide us some words
4 of blessing before we get started. Chairman
5 James?

6 MR. JAMES: Well, thank you, Mr.
7 Newland. Before I get started here, I just want
8 to say thank you for all the Tribal leaders on
9 today's call. Mr. Newland and the Federal team,
10 you have a big job, a good one though, a lot of
11 money coming down to Indian country any time we
12 have a record number of funding for us Tribes to
13 help our people is a good thing.

[Blessing]

(Sings in Native language)

11 With that on behalf of the Yurok Tribal
12 Government, we say thank you to our brothers and
13 sisters, our federal family there, Mr. Newland,
14 you and your family, and everybody here, (speaks
15 in Native language), thank you.

16 MR. NEWLAND: (Speaks in Native
17 language.) Thank you so much, Chairman James, for
18 your words and your song today, for sharing with
19 us; very grateful for that and I feel good and I
20 feel better after starting that way. Now, I want

21 to turn it over to our Deputy Secretary of the
22 Interior, Tommy Beaudreau.

1 MR. BEAUDREAU: Thank you, Assistant
2 Secretary Newland and greetings to all of you,
3 thank you for opening in such a powerful way,
4 Chairman. My name is Tommy Beaudreau. I'm the
5 Deputy Secretary of the Interior Department, and I
6 want to thank all of the tribal leaders who are
7 participating in this consultation related to the
8 Interior Department's implementation of the
9 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

10 This consultation is an important part
11 of the Biden/Harris Administration, all of
12 government's approach to strengthening our
13 government relationships with tribes as President
14 Biden directed in his Memorandum issued one year
15 ago today. Today we will consult on a \$28 billion
16 investment through the Department of the
17 Interior's programs included in the Bipartisan
18 Infrastructure Law including \$466 million
19 investment in tribal climate resilience and
20 infrastructure to support community led
21 transitions for the most vulnerable tribal
22 communities including climate adaptation planning,

1 ocean and coastal management planning, capacity
2 building, and where necessary relocation, managed
3 retreat, and protect and place planning to address
4 climate risk.

5 Two and a half billion dollar investment
6 in Indian water rights to fulfill the government's
7 obligations and programs that make tribal
8 communities eligible for resources to support
9 building resilience, along with fire and drought,
10 restoring eco systems, enabling fish passage, and
11 addressing legacy pollution from abandoned mine
12 lands and oil and gas fills.

13 Today, Department leaders will provide
14 presentations to give more clarity about the law
15 and Interior's work to implement bonding
16 opportunities under the Bipartisan Infrastructure
17 Law. We would also like to talk about ways to
18 work across Indian country and across the federal
19 government on technical assistance to unlock
20 resources under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
21 not just through the Interior Department, but
22 through the Departments of Energy, Transportation,

1 EPA, Agriculture, Commerce, and others. As we
2 move forward we welcome ongoing discussion and
3 collaboration so that we can continue to build
4 trust and honor our federal responsibility to
5 Indian country.

6 Now it is my honor and pleasure to
7 introduce to you the President's Senior Advisor on
8 Infrastructure Coordination, Mayor Mitch Landrieu
9 -- over to you Mayor.

10 MR. LANDRIEU: Thank you, Deputy
11 Secretary, how are you doing? Good to see you.
12 Bryan, thank you so much, and Chairman, thank you
13 so much for that beautiful prayer and that
14 beautiful opening son. I bring greetings from
15 President Biden and Vice President Harris, and I
16 want to say good afternoon and thank you to all
17 the tribal leaders for joining us and thank you so
18 much to Secretary Dev Haaland for her tremendous
19 leadership on the President's Infrastructure
20 Implementation Task Force.

21 When President Biden came into office
22 just over a year ago, he pledged to use the power

1 of his presidency to help every day Americans to
2 bring people together and to rebuild our great
3 country. And with this Infrastructure Law,
4 President Biden is delivering the largest
5 investment in infrastructure in a generation and
6 the single largest investment in trial
7 infrastructure ever. More than \$13 billion
8 provided directly to tribal communities and
9 billions more dollars that tribes are eligible to
10 competing for. A little more than 60 days in our
11 team has hit the ground running and we're already
12 delivering results. We've now convened the Task
13 Force made up of the cabinet, a total of seven
14 times, our last with the President himself. We're
15 discussing hard questions seeking to flush out the
16 tough stuff first. I'm a big believer in running
17 to the fire in that way. We are trying to break
18 down silos across agencies on guidelines, on
19 permitting, and on hiring. This is going to be a
20 one team, one fight, one mission approach and
21 we're going to operate in that way. Our team is
22 here to be problem solvers. We're here to

1 deliver. We're here to build a team and to help
2 tell the story. And ultimately we want to help
3 people take advantage of this great opportunity to
4 build a better, stronger America.

5 Now as a country, we haven't spent this
6 kind of money on infrastructure in generations.
7 So we're talking about how to do it with
8 accountability on time, on task, on budget,
9 spending taxpayer dollars both wisely and well.
10 I've had the opportunity to speak with a number of
11 tribal and Alaska native leaders since taking this
12 position and have learned about the tremendous
13 diversity of Native (inaudible) honoring tribal
14 sovereignty, strengthening self-determination and
15 fulfilling the federal trust and treaty
16 responsibilities to tribal nations.

17 MS. BROWN: We have lost the Mayor and
18 we will go to him if he comes back. I believe we
19 are going to go back to Deputy Secretary
20 Beaudreau.

21 MR. BEAUDREAU: Yeah, I think this
22 highlights the need across America including the

1 Indian country for broadband investments and that
2 is a central part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure
3 Law. So, but you heard from Mayor Landrieu, the
4 President himself is focused on delivering
5 resources through the Infrastructure Law to Indian
6 country. And so I'm extremely proud to work with
7 Bryan and the entire team here at Interior and
8 across the federal government to work with you in
9 figuring out how to deliver these benefits. And
10 so I'll turn it back to Assistant Secretary
11 Newland who will then move us into presentations
12 from folks across the Department and what the
13 opportunities are out there, thanks.

14 MR. NEWLAND: Thank you, Deputy
15 Secretary, and I appreciate you making time for us
16 as well. I know how busy your schedule is. I
17 know that you and the Secretary want to reinforce
18 the commitment of the entire Department of the
19 Interior for our work here so thank you for that.

20 I want to turn it over now to my
21 colleague here at the Department, Assistant
22 Secretary for Water and Science, Tanya Trujillo,

1 to cover some of the water related funding streams
2 in the Infrastructure Law coming through the
3 Department.

4 MS. TRUJILLO: Hello everyone and hello,
5 thank you very much, Bryan, for that introduction.
6 I am Tanya Trujillo, the Assistant Secretary for
7 Water and Science, and I'm very happy to be
8 speaking with you today about the Western Water
9 provisions that are in the Bipartisan
10 Infrastructure Law. I will cover the Indian Water
11 Rights Settlement provisions next after these
12 first initial slides. And I just want to let
13 folks know, I am also challenged in terms of the
14 bandwidth and infrastructure issues so I am
15 calling in by phone and I'm not able to have a
16 video on, but I'm following along with the slide
17 presentation that is being shown as part of this
18 presentation. It's great to be here as part of
19 this team.

20 First of all I know that many of our
21 partners have been able to join our previous
22 presentations and I want to compliment the

1 personnel at the Bureau of Reclamation who put
2 together some incredible webinars that describe
3 all of these infrastructure opportunities in three
4 different segments and those were held in December
5 and a few weeks ago in January. And those are
6 archived and available on line at the Bureau of
7 Reclamation's website, USBR.Gov and I will be
8 repeating some of the information that was
9 provided in more detail through those specific
10 presentations.

11 On January 14th we were very excited
12 that Reclamation was able to publish the initial
13 spending plan for use for the initial allocation
14 from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for the
15 funding that we will be utilizing in 2022. That
16 document is on line at USBR.Gov as well and it
17 covers many much more detail, much, many more of
18 the specific details regarding the particular
19 projects and program that we have that can be
20 funded through these opportunities. That as
21 everyone knows our funding from the Bipartisan
22 Infrastructure Law is available for the next five

1 years. And so the information that we're
2 presenting last week through the spend plan was
3 just the initial first segment of those
4 allocations.

5 We will be providing as much of the
6 spending as possible because the process is very
7 much individualized per the particular programs
8 and many of the programs rely on application
9 processes and funding opportunity announcements
10 that will be made available to tribal and
11 non-tribal participants and perspective
12 applicants. So I know that all of that
13 information is very much of interest and we're
14 excited to be able to provide these opportunities.
15 So I think we can get into details with the next
16 slide.

17 I know right now as we speak,
18 Reclamation has four public funding processes
19 underway to collect project proposals. Those four
20 processes are first, the extraordinary maintenance
21 projects. We are looking -- those are being
22 solicited through January 31st and we will be able

1 to use our new aging infrastructure funding
2 category of funding for those projects.

3 Second, we have water recycling projects
4 that are available using our existing
5 authorizations. Those are open for application
6 through March 15th. Third, we have recycling
7 projects authorized pursuant to the WIIN Act,
8 which are also open through March 15th. And
9 finally, the fourth category are the desalination
10 projects which are open through March 15th.

11 All of these latter three funding
12 opportunities are open to tribal and non-tribal
13 communities and they are all published in the same
14 way through the grant stop gov process. Just to
15 provide the big picture perspective, Reclamation's
16 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Program breaks down
17 of funding into projects through public funding
18 opportunities like the ones that we just mentioned
19 and then also some smaller scale application
20 periods. Those are such as the Extraordinary
21 Maintenance projects.

22 We have internal budget processes that

1 are going on for each of the programs which
2 include things for programs like the specialty
3 program of dam safety and dam infrastructure
4 rehabilitation. In the meantime we are completing
5 and publishing various Bipartisan Infrastructure
6 Law related program criteria for some of the new
7 programs and those announcements will be coming
8 later in this year. Those include some of the
9 small storage projects, our water smart grant
10 projects which have been very popular in the past
11 and some new opportunities for watershed projects
12 and aquatic eco system programs that we are -- so
13 we are looking forward to rolling out the criteria
14 for those throughout the spring.

15 We are not interrupting any of our
16 existing programs with these new opportunities and
17 so we will be simultaneously doing the existing
18 construction and existing programs that we have
19 such as real water programs and of course
20 implementation of our Indian Water Rights
21 Settlements, but we are making these new
22 opportunities available at the same time.

1 So on the next slide as we get closer to
2 finishing this section, we hope that we will --
3 that this information has been helpful to give a
4 big picture view of the programs we have
5 available. The table that's titled Additional
6 Resources is meant to summarize all of the
7 information that I ran through quickly and we are
8 hoping to give you information that you can
9 continue to think about and think about how the
10 opportunities may be available in your various
11 communities.

12 We know there is a lot more to this
13 description and we want to remain available to you
14 and to have a dialogue with our travel partners
15 about how to best implement these provisions. So
16 I know that questions on the third slide are -- we
17 wanted to make sure we were thinking about how to
18 make this session and our efforts on the
19 Bipartisan Infrastructural Law as helpful as
20 possible. Please think about these questions and
21 use the avenues we've set up to communicate
22 whatever ways you think would be most helpful.

1 Thank you very much.

2 And then I can shift, Bryan, if you're
3 amenable to talking specifically about or Indian
4 Water Rights Settlement provisions.

5 MR. NEWLAND: You betcha.

6 MS. TRUJILLO: Thank you.

7 MR. NEWLAND: Thank you.

8 MS. TRUJILLO: Whoops, great. The slide
9 that we have is again similar to the prior
10 provisions. A lot of information condensed into
11 one small slide of information, but the specific
12 provision in the Infrastructure Law that's
13 relating to Indian Water Rights Settlement
14 Completion authorizes \$2.5 billion in mandatory
15 funding which is going to be deposited into our
16 Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund.
17 The language in the legislation says that the
18 funds shall be used by the Secretary of the
19 Interior for transfers to funds or accounts
20 authorized to receive discretionary appropriations
21 or to satisfy other obligations identified by the
22 Secretary of the Interior under and Indian Water

1 Rights Settlement approved and authorized by an
2 act of Congress before the date of the Bipartisan
3 Infrastructure Law. So this funding will provide
4 additional resources to the Department and to the
5 Secretary to help us complete the existing
6 authorized settlements.

7 The law also specifies that transfer
8 shall be made in such amounts as are determine by
9 the Secretary to be appropriate to satisfy the
10 obligations of the United States and that includes
11 appropriate indexing. As the Secretary shall have
12 the discretion to determine the sequence and
13 timing of the transfers from the fun with the goal
14 of in order to be substantially complete the
15 eligible Indian Water Rights Settlement as
16 expeditiously as practical. Now as everyone knows
17 we have -- it's a high priority for us to be able
18 to make progress on these existing settlements.

19 So just to run to the next slide
20 overview, all of the existing settlements are
21 identified on our website and linked to the
22 Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office and many of

1 the settlements have been funded, but there are
2 settlements, several of them with existing
3 balances to complete or with ongoing federal
4 obligations such as operations, maintenance, and
5 replacement costs. So we will have lots of
6 opportunities to provide help through the
7 Bipartisan Infrastructural Law for these existing
8 settlements and the priorities that we have been
9 able to establish.

10 Then the next slide please. So again
11 our questions for feedback that we're looking for
12 in this context are what factors should we be
13 using to consider, what factors should the
14 Secretary consider in determining the sequence and
15 timing of distributing the \$2.5 billion that we
16 have. And should the entire amount of the fund be
17 paid out immediately to satisfy remaining costs of
18 the settlements or should some of the funding be
19 held back in the event that the additional
20 settlements, excuse me, the 34 settlements that
21 had been enacted could need additional funding
22 into the future.

1 So those are the questions that we have
2 identified that we would have really appreciated
3 additional feedback from our tribal partners on.
4 Thank you all very much for the opportunity to be
5 participating today and we look forward to hearing
6 the input and working together on these important
7 issues.

8 MR. NEWLAND: Thank you, Assistant
9 Secretary Trujillo for that presentation and
10 pulling double duty today covering the water
11 related provisions for the Department under the
12 Infrastructure Law. I want to give an overview
13 now of the Indian Affairs programs and just before
14 I get into this, the key part of these
15 consultations is to get your feedback, but because
16 there are so many parts of the infrastructure law
17 that affect us or flow through us here at the
18 Department, we want to make sure that we are
19 sharing with you some of our thoughts and
20 proposals on how this money can be spent so that
21 there is something for you all to comment on and
22 that's why the added time has been included in

1 this consultation session for us to go through
2 this.

3 So the Infrastructure Law provides \$250
4 million to us at the Department for advance in
5 water projects, \$50 million of that is for BIA's
6 irrigation and power program. We at Indian
7 Affairs are proposing to invest approximately 70
8 percent of those funds of that \$50 million in
9 Indian irrigation projects and 30 percent at BIA
10 owned power utilities. This is the first time
11 that discretionary appropriations have been made
12 available for the three BIA owned power utilities
13 which are operated and maintained through user
14 fees. We plan to invest a portion of the
15 Infrastructure funds in updating power utility
16 components that reduces the risk of failure and
17 are consistent with information we've received
18 from assessment reports for those facilities.

19 We are also proposing to use the
20 Infrastructure Law funding in accordance with
21 current prioritization processes for
22 rehabilitation activities. And we want to make

1 sure that there is a lower priority for projects
2 that have received water settlement funds in the
3 last 10 years. Again, this is a proposed spend
4 plan and we are seeking feedback on it. The
5 Infrastructure Law also includes \$200 million to
6 address dam safety and water sanitation. The dam
7 safety program will prioritize projects identified
8 as presenting unacceptable life safety risk to
9 downstream residents and plan for design and
10 construction of remediation modifications.

11 The water sanitation program will
12 address EPA notice of violation, identify
13 contamination issues, reducing system failure
14 risk, reducing exposure to contaminants, and
15 addressing gaps in water delivery.

16 I think there is an additional slide.
17 We can go to the next one. I think did we skip
18 one? No, okay. So we have posed several
19 questions to you for feedback. They are stated
20 here for those of you joining by phone. I will
21 read them. The first question is do you have
22 questions or comments to the implementation

1 strategy propose by BIA that might improve how we
2 meet programmatic goals of this law? Question 2
3 is do you have any questions or comments about
4 BIA's proposed funding distribution methodology.
5 And the third question is do the factors proposed
6 to prioritize investments for irrigation of power
7 seem appropriate or should we consider other
8 factors?

9 We'll go to the next slide. Here are
10 some additional resources on your screen for the
11 dam safety irrigation and water sanitation part of
12 the infrastructure funding plan. And for those of
13 you joining on the phone, this PowerPoint slide
14 will be made available on our website at
15 BIA.Gov/Tribal Consultation/Bipartisan
16 Infrastructure Law.

17 Next slide please. The Infrastructure
18 Law also provides funding to the BIA for climate
19 resilience. That includes \$130 million for
20 community relocation and we are proposing to
21 support risk assessment planning, implementation
22 and capacity building for climate relocation. The

1 Infrastructure Law includes \$86 million for tribal
2 climate resilience adaptation projects. We are
3 proposing to support training and workshops,
4 adaptation planning, youth engagement
5 implementation, travel, and capacity building for
6 climate adaptation.

7 The criteria for allocation of funding
8 will be based on overall quality of design,
9 potential for implementation and incorporation of
10 science features. It will also include capacity
11 building, the budget and supplemental factors such
12 as the breadth of the benefits and ability to
13 leverage funds.

14 We can go to the next slide please. On
15 your screen are some additional resources and
16 points of contact that you can reach out to for
17 questions regarding climate resilience programs.

18 Next slide please. So we have some
19 questions for you on this part as well, four of
20 them in fact. The first question is do the
21 eligible cost categories for community relocation
22 and climate adaptation seem appropriate? The

1 second question is given the amount of funds
2 available, does the criteria for awarding funds
3 seem like an appropriate approach or should we
4 consider other factors? The third question is
5 should we have a cap on funding per tribe or
6 direct funding to tribes most at risk and ready to
7 implement projects. The fourth questions is does
8 your tribe participate in any of these programs
9 currently? If is, what works well and what
10 aspects of the program need improvement?

11 In addition, I just want to note that,
12 you know, one of the other things that is under
13 consideration are applying a portion of these
14 funds to pilot projects for immediate
15 implementation, and that's something, you know,
16 that we're happy to discuss and get feedback on
17 this process as well. So I look forward to
18 hearing back from all of you. This completes my
19 overview of the BIA programs and I want to turn
20 the presentation over to my colleague, Jeff
21 Rupert, who is the Director of the Office of Wild
22 Land Fire Management Program.

1 MR. RUPERT: Thank you, Assistant
2 Secretary Newland for the introduction and let me
3 just start by saying it's a real honor for me to
4 have the opportunity to join all of you today to
5 share information about support and provisions in
6 the Bipartisan Infrastructure Laws that are coming
7 to the Wild and Fire Management Program in
8 Interior.

9 I'd like to start with just a little
10 overview of the Wild and Fire Management Program
11 which is on the next slide. The Department
12 implements a suite of activities that make up our
13 Wild and Fire Management Program. That program is
14 implemented through the Bureau of Indian Affairs,
15 the Bureau of Land Management, National Park
16 Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
17 and importantly we also receive science support
18 through the U.S. Geological Service.

19 Our program is supported through a suite
20 of activities that include preparedness activities
21 so those are the activities in place to prepare to
22 respond to wild fires. So sustaining, supporting,

1 sustaining the fire fighting work across Interior
2 equipment and supplies and then response planning
3 all occur under preparedness. We also receive
4 support for suppression. Suppression directly
5 supports large incident management so when a large
6 wild fire is occurring all of those activities,
7 really the inner agency activities on those large
8 fires are supported through suppression.

9 Fuels management so before a fire, all
10 of the vegetation management and the risk
11 reduction projects that we put in place across
12 lands to try to reduce the intensity and the
13 impact of wild fires occurs through fuels
14 management. We have a facilities program to
15 support just that, fire management facilities,
16 burned area rehabilitation so after a wild fire;
17 the recovery and rehabilitation activities that
18 occur. And then finally we have science support.

19 On the next slide, so I will talk a
20 little bit about the \$1.5 billion of
21 infrastructure support to the Department of
22 Interior Fire Program. The law's funding is

1 intended to prepare communities and eco systems
2 for the threat of wild fire by making these
3 historic investments to address risk through fuels
4 management, science and technology to improve the
5 early detection of wild fire, support to local
6 communities to prepare for and mitigate the
7 impacts for wild fires and post wild fire
8 restoration activities. The law also invests in
9 Wild Land (phonetic) fire fighter pay and benefit
10 reforms and in most cases the support and the
11 provisions contained in the Bipartisan
12 Infrastructure Law are complimentary to support
13 the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
14 is receiving and both departments are
15 collaborating and coordinating on the
16 implementation of these provisions.

17 So now just a little bit more
18 information under these activities. So for
19 preparedness, tribes are eligible for or we
20 believe will benefit from a number of resources
21 that are being provided under preparedness to
22 respond to wild fires including \$50 million of

1 support for pre-planning fire response workshops
2 and training for fire fighters. An additional
3 provision that provides \$50 million of support for
4 tribal and local government to purchase slip on
5 fire fighting modules for trucks; an additional
6 provision of \$10 million for radio inter
7 operability and incident management team support
8 when responding to wild fires, a \$10 million
9 provision for agreements with NOAA to establish
10 and operate and make use of the GO Stationary
11 Operational Environmental Satellite Program, GEOS,
12 to rapidly detect and report wild fire starts and
13 then finally under preparedness a \$5 million
14 provision for purchasing sensors, cameras, and
15 equipment for wild fire detection and real time
16 monitoring.

17 We are also receiving support that
18 tribes are eligible for, we believe will benefit
19 from for fuels management activities. That
20 includes a provision for \$100 million to support
21 mechanical thinning projects; an additional
22 provision, \$250 million of support for prescribed

1 fire; a \$250 million provision for developing and
2 installing potential control locations including
3 fuel breaks, a \$100 million provision to employ
4 contractors, young adults, tribal youths, veterans
5 and others to remove flammable vegetation and
6 produce bio char where possible and other
7 innovative wood products. And finally, a \$178
8 million provision to expand the Department's
9 existing fuels management program. Finally,
10 moving on to post fire so burned area
11 rehabilitation, a provision that tribes are
12 eligible for, we believe will benefit from for
13 \$325 million provided to support federal, state
14 tribal entities to complete post fire restoration
15 activities. These actions are intended to help
16 mitigate the damage and the effect of wild fires
17 and to help essentially set landscapes on a path
18 to natural recovery and ultimately wild fire and
19 climate resilience.

20 I mentioned earlier there were some
21 specific fire fighter work force reforms. The law
22 provides \$120 million to Interior for Wild Land

1 fire fighting work force reform. This includes
2 base pay increases, the creation of a Wild Land
3 Fire Fighter Occupational series, the conversion
4 of seasonal Wild Land Fire Fighters to full time
5 permanent status, and the development of programs
6 to address fire fighter mental health and post
7 traumatic stress disorder support and care.

8 Finally, under science the law provides
9 \$10 million in support to Interior over the next
10 five years for science and research associated
11 with wild fire risk and it directly impacts local
12 communities. And the law identifies the use of a
13 joint fire science program to implement those
14 activities.

15 And then finally my final slide, like
16 the others offers several suggestions that we
17 think will help focus implementation of these
18 provisions and they include which Wild Land Fire
19 Fighter, the next slide, in the deck, which Wild
20 Land Fire Resilience Programs have the potential
21 to be most important to your tribe or where do you
22 see your tribe having capacity to implement these

1 programs through contracts or agreement. And then
2 the second question -- does your tribe participate
3 in any of these programs currently and if so what
4 works well and what aspects of the program need
5 improvements?

6 And that is the end of my presentation.
7 Thank you all.

8 MR. RUPERT: You're up, Tom.

9 MR. BEAUDREAU: Thank you so much Jeff.
10 I appreciate your time today. Next up we have a
11 discussion of the Eco System Restoration Program
12 that comes down to the Infrastructure Law and we
13 will have our Associate Deputy Secretary, Sarah
14 Greenberger, cover this for us, Sarah?

15 MS. GREENBERGER: Thank you, Bryan, and
16 thank you everyone for your patience and attention
17 and with me through all of these presentations.
18 This is one I think where we have new resources
19 and could particularly use feedback as we start to
20 think about how we structure goals, criteria, and
21 how we allocate resources from last years of
22 appropriations.

1 So I think as you've seen through the
2 programs we've already discussed, that there is
3 really is a focus in this Infrastructure Law on
4 Eco System Restoration. So there are programs in
5 the western waters of wild land fire resources,
6 also a focus on restoration and resilience, but
7 there are specific resources, \$905 million given
8 to the Office of the Secretary to really focus on
9 Eco System Restoration itself. Explicitly these
10 funds are really mirror about equal amounts that
11 have been given again to the Department of
12 Agriculture in many of these same categories for
13 use of some of these very same tools. So that
14 \$905 million as you can see is sort of distribute
15 again over some specific tools I think meant to
16 complement each other and serve Eco System
17 Restoration. That includes contracts to restore
18 the ecological health on federal lands, a capital
19 fund to support those contracts, the neighbor
20 agreements with states and tribes, and a new grant
21 program, grants to state and tribes through
22 voluntary restoration, \$400 million incorporated

1 over five years. That's a statutory focus on
2 cross boundary projects and also does have some
3 matching requirements. Those are not specified,
4 but they are in the law so it's a place we will be
5 looking to be creative.

6 There are resources for invasive species
7 detection, prevention, and eradication;
8 re-vegetation and hazard mitigation on mind land,
9 and national re-vegetation effort including
10 resources for the national feed strategy. So
11 again, it's a big bucket of money, but it's
12 splintered across a number of different tools and
13 purposes. I think some of the big questions for
14 us are how do we make sure we integrate these
15 resources and focus them in a way that really
16 accomplishes something? How do we be strategic in
17 the way that these resources are used? And how do
18 we make sure that we're collaborating with our
19 partners, all of the states, local governments,
20 other federal agencies to make the most of these
21 resources and really direct them to the biggest
22 problems that you're facing?

1 Tribal or tribal land eligibility is
2 explicitly mentioned in several of these sections.
3 That's where you see those orange stars or slats.
4 I don't know exactly how to describe that shape,
5 but tribes are likely eligible in each of these
6 categories through contracts or agreements for
7 services.

8 In terms of process, we've put together
9 a group of experts from each of the bureaus and
10 relevant offices within the Department to think
11 about these questions. How do we structure the
12 overall purpose of the program? What are our
13 goals and objectives? Again, how do we use these
14 resources strategically to make sure they have an
15 impact and again a place where we really look to
16 get input and feedback on to, you know, what
17 works, where there is need, and how we make the
18 best use of these investments?

19 Next slide. In terms of a contact,
20 Jonathan Steel who is as you know is Deputy
21 Director of the Office of Policy Analysis is
22 working closely with me and colleagues again

1 across the bureaus in answering these questions
2 and trying to figure out how to best spend these
3 resources.

4 And last, you will see I think some very
5 similar questions of some of my other colleagues,
6 you know, which of the activities or issue are
7 most important or most pressing that we should
8 make sure we consider as we define some of these
9 programs. Where do you see your tribe having
10 capacity to implement through agreements or
11 contracts? And are they very or do you there's
12 always access to policies that can make
13 implementation more difficult as we try to spend
14 more money. I want to make sure we understand
15 where those challenges and have an opportunity to
16 address them.

17 And do you see opportunities where these
18 funds could best leverage other restoration
19 investments to your tribes or other federal
20 agencies are making for us to feedback at the end
21 of the presentation?

22 MR. NEWLAND: Thanks, Sarah, for sharing

1 that. Before I turn it over to my colleague here
2 at the Department, Matthew Strickler, I just want
3 to want note a couple of things. First, I'm going
4 to have to jump off this consultation for 30
5 minutes at 3:00 p.m. and our Principal Deputy
6 Assistant Secretary Wizi Garriott will sub in for
7 me and help moderate the conversation. We're also
8 monitoring the chat here in the Zoom and
9 understand that we are throwing a lot of
10 information at you and Chairman Allen's comment
11 about taking more time because there is so much to
12 unpack here. We do understand that there is a lot
13 of information to unpack.

14 The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law does
15 have some statutory requirements for us to
16 finalize our spending plan and that deadline was
17 90 days from enactment of the law. So we are
18 aiming to wrap up the consultation sessions this
19 week and with a deadline of February 4th for
20 written comments so that we can complete our
21 obligations under the statute. We did send out a
22 Dear Tribal Leader letter with a 17 page document

1 kind of giving the overview of what we're
2 proposing to do. We are working as hard as we can
3 to break this down for you and get your feedback
4 and incorporate it into our work before submitting
5 that spend plan by the congressional deadline. So
6 that is why there is such a glut of information
7 that we're sharing with you and we agree there's a
8 lot to unpack. We are working very hard here to
9 meet those deadlines and I know that you're all
10 very busy running your tribes and your
11 organizations and we know that it's a tall task to
12 ask you to sift through those 17 pages and get us
13 fully developed comments back. We are working
14 within these statutory deadlines so I wanted to
15 share that here and we're going to make sure that
16 we review all of the comments that come in and try
17 to fold them into our work.

18 So without further ado, I'm going to
19 turn it over to Mr. Strickler. I'm going to sign
20 off for about 30 minutes and I will re-join the
21 conversation in progress. Thank you.

22 MR. STRICKLER: Thank you, Bryan, and

1 thanks everyone for the opportunity to meet with
2 you today. My name is Matt Strickler. I serve as
3 the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and
4 Wildlife and Parks at the Interior Department. As
5 many of you know, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
6 Service is a lead federal agency working with
7 others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish and
8 wildlife and plants and their habitats for the
9 continuing benefit of all of us. This service has
10 received resources through the Bipartisan
11 Infrastructure Law \$455 million in total to
12 further its conservation work with partners in
13 four key eco systems and one additional broader
14 conservation goal.

15 As you can see here, there is \$162
16 million in the law for Klamath Basin restoration,
17 habitat restoration work, water rights acquisition
18 to help restore Klamath's eco system as well as
19 hatchery construction to help support recovery of
20 the lost river and short nose suckers. There is
21 also \$17 million in funding for the Lake Tahoe
22 Basin particularly with respect to species

1 control, \$50 million for stage step to the eco
2 system restoration, and then \$26 million for the
3 Delaware Basin on the east coast. In addition, as
4 I mentioned there is a large pot of money for fish
5 passage, funds to restore aquatic habitat and
6 remove obstructions to the fish passage in our
7 rivers and streams. So we're very excited about
8 the opportunities here and that these resources
9 provide to achieve meaningful conservation
10 outcomes and I really look forward to the
11 collaboration with tribal nations on projects of
12 significance to you, particularly of note for
13 folks today.

14 This presents a really great opportunity
15 in the Klamath Basin to do some meaningful work
16 and make I think some real important progress
17 there in conjunction with our partners at the
18 Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of
19 Agriculture, and or course through some of the eco
20 system restoration work that Sarah Greenberg has
21 just described.

22 Next slide please. So it's also worth

1 noting that the service is going to play an
2 important role in implementing other agencies as
3 far as the Infrastructure Law implementation work
4 through the Endangered Species Act, Section 7
5 Consultation, and National Environmental Policy
6 Act Consultation, as well as through inner agency
7 consultation on specific programs as required in
8 the statute and these are the official Wildlife
9 Service's points of contact for each of the
10 specific funds that I just talked about. Again,
11 this will be made available to you all afterward,
12 but know that we have someone who is dedicated to
13 each of these accounts and able to answer
14 questions and talk with you about those funds.

15 We also have a number of subject matter
16 experts and regional leaders here with us today to
17 answer questions later on in a Q&A session that
18 includes U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Deputy
19 Director Steve Garden, Pacific Southwest Regional
20 Director Paul Souza, and Fish and Aquatic Wildlife
21 Division Chief Dave Miko.

22 It is important to note that the tribes

1 are eligible to receive funding under all of the
2 programs that we're considering using to
3 distribute these funds and so we look forward to
4 working through some of the challenge that we know
5 are there with capacity, et cetera, to make sure
6 that, you know, we're able to provide access
7 there.

8 So just in closing, next slide please, I
9 would like to offer some questions for
10 consideration during the discussion later on
11 today. These are similar to some of the other
12 questions you've seen, but what is the best way to
13 make sure that tribal interests are incorporated
14 into project selection, how many tribes use
15 partnerships to put together project proposals and
16 would that produce projects that are more
17 competitive and what do the tribes think about
18 matching requirements where they exist? Some of
19 these will have matching requirements and there
20 will be questions as to what those requirements
21 actually look like and I will look forward again
22 to have some discussion about that.

1 So that's what I have today. I will
2 kick it back over and look forward to the Q&A
3 later on today, thanks.

4 MR. GARRIOTT: Hi, for those who may not
5 know me, my name is Wizi Garriott. I am a citizen
6 of the Rosewood Sioux Tribe and I serve as the
7 Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and I am
8 filling in for part of the coordination activities
9 while Assistant Secretary Newland has to step away
10 for an important meeting.

11 Next up is information on the Orphaned
12 Wells Program and we will turn it over to Deputy
13 Assistant Secretary Feldgus.

14 MR. FELDGUS: Thank you very much,
15 Secretary Garriott, and thank you to everyone
16 joining this consultation. My name is Steve
17 Feldgus and I am the Deputy Assistant Secretary
18 for Land and Minerals Management at the Department
19 of the Interior and I am here to talk about two
20 primary programs in the Infrastructure bill
21 related to cleaning up longstanding polluted
22 sites. One, dealing with Orphaned Wells and

1 another for abandoned coal mines.

2 So within the Orphaned Wells Program
3 there is \$150 million available to clean up orphan
4 well sites and any pollution that surrounds those
5 sites on tribal lands. And under the law tribes
6 with orphan wells on their land may either get a
7 grant directly under the program and arrange
8 through the plugging and remediation or they may
9 ask the Department of the Interior to perform
10 those activities on the tribe's behalf. We have
11 been doing additional outreach to tribes that have
12 current or previous oil and gas activities on
13 their lands. If you have not received any
14 information about that and know that you have or
15 think you that you might have orphan wells on your
16 land, please reach out to us or through the
17 contact names on the next slide when we get back.

18 For the Abandoned Mine Land Program, the
19 Pro Tribe, the Hoby Tribe, and Navaho Nation will
20 be eligible to receive these new grant funds
21 provided under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
22 and these are the same three that currently

1 receive annual grants under the existing Abandoned
2 Mine Land Program and those annual grants will
3 also be continuing as they were extended by the
4 Bipartisan Infrastructural Law.

5 Can we go to the next slide please? So
6 after we are done with this consultation, if you
7 have specific questions about these programs, the
8 best point of contact for the Orphaned Well
9 Program will be Albert Bond with the Indian Energy
10 Servicer Center or Steve Tryon with the Office of
11 Environmental Policy and Compliance. And if you
12 have any question about the Abandoned Mine Land
13 Program, the best contact is Yolande Norman from
14 the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and
15 Enforcement. And of course there are as I would
16 expect a bit of questions on this. I've just
17 given a very, very quick overview of this funding
18 stream, but there are some various complexities in
19 the details and we do hope to engage more talking
20 about those.

21 Go to the next slide. So of course we
22 encourage your feedback on all the ways this

1 program is going to be set up and how we'll
2 operate, but in particular we could use your
3 thoughts on the following questions. First, does
4 your tribe currently participate in the Abandoned
5 Mine Land Program and if so what is working well
6 and what aspects of the program need improvement?
7 Second, what would be the best way to administer
8 the funds for the Orphaned Well Cleanup Program?
9 Would tribes prefer distribution by a formula
10 grant or through a call for nomination? And
11 third, how can we best ensure that tribes that
12 don't have orphan wells or abandoned coal mines on
13 their lands are able to provide early and useful
14 input into these programs for cleaning up the
15 sites on federal, state, and private land? We are
16 of course very aware of the air and water
17 pollution from orphaned wells and abandoned mines
18 crosses political boundaries and tribes can
19 experience severe and negative impacts from sites
20 that are near or even relatively far, but not on
21 their lands. So we want to do our part to make
22 sure that those wells and those mine lands are

1 properly prioritize because even if your tribe
2 does not receive funding directly under either of
3 these programs, it does not mean you should not be
4 able to enjoy the benefits.

5 Now I would like to hand it back to
6 Deputy Assistant Secretary Garriott.

7 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you, Steve. Next,
8 we are going to turn it over to USGS and talk with
9 Associate Director Ryker.

10 MS. RYKER: Thank you very much. I'm
11 Sarah Ryker. I am the U.S. Geological Surveys
12 Associate Director for Energy and Mineral
13 Resources. And I also have with me Colin
14 Williams, who is leading the Mineral Resources
15 Program. Our Department of the Interior has
16 described several lines of funding provided by the
17 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the spending
18 that Congress provide to the USGS is a little
19 different. Many of you know the USGS for our maps
20 and this funding actually comes with direction to
21 update our maps and collect new data to better
22 understand the land surface and subsurface. And

1 that's why it is really important to us to have
2 this discussion with you now while we're still
3 early in our planning because this new funding is
4 going to accelerate and expand our mapping and
5 that means that over the next few years these
6 mapping activities will likely touch more and more
7 tribal lands. So we want to work with you early
8 and often to collect our data in ways that are not
9 disruptive for you and produce maps that are
10 useful to you.

11 Yeah, thanks for the map slide. The
12 funding directed through the USGS Earth Mapping
13 Resources Initiative which we call Earth MRI and I
14 mentioned that this new mapping is intended to
15 improve our understanding of the surface and
16 subsurface of the land. Well, Earth MRI does that
17 by partnering to collect new data. We call these
18 types of data foundational Geo science data
19 because they have so many uses. In the left hand
20 column I have listed some of the major types of
21 data that Earth MRI collects. I won't linger on
22 the technical detail, but I want to talk about the

1 scope and purpose here.

2 The statute tells us to focus the new
3 mapping on regions with potential for critical
4 minerals and those are minerals needed for
5 technologies such as energy generation and storage
6 and for consumer devices and they include some
7 minerals that are frequently in the new rare
8 earths. So that is the focus of our mapping under
9 the statute, but the data we will collect are also
10 needed for many other purposes.

11 In the center column here we've listed a
12 few of the major uses of these types of data.
13 They're used to understand mineral resources not
14 only including critical minerals, but also
15 including construction materials such as sand and
16 gravel. And also to understand Go thermal energy,
17 ground water, earthquake risk and how the
18 chemistry of mine waste affects the environment
19 and how the land contributes in response to
20 climate change. So they're all purpose data.

21 At right is a little more on how the
22 funding is to be used under the statute. We are

1 to focus on the particular definition of critical
2 minerals given by the Energy Act of 2020 and we
3 are to map both mineral resources still on the
4 ground and also potential mineral resources in
5 mine wastes. We are also directed to work through
6 partnerships and so far we have established
7 partnerships with a number of state geological
8 surveys some of which are also partners of course.
9 We are also building partnerships now with other
10 federal agencies and most recently with private
11 industry.

12 Next slide please. We're at the very
13 early stage on our planning and we are really
14 hoping to partner with tribes as we develop this
15 mapping effort. Colin Williams and I are here
16 today to take any questions and follow up
17 separately too. We have also included two of our
18 technical contacts because I know that some of you
19 are tribal agencies are already working with them.
20 And at the bottom of the screen is a website on
21 the mapping work. That's [USGS.Gov/Earth-MRI](https://www.usgs.gov/earth-mri).

22 And on the next slide just I'll just

1 close like my colleagues with a few questions that
2 would help us understand how best to work with
3 you. First, does your tribe have GO science needs
4 identified? And these are the opportunities for a
5 dedicated study in support of those needs.
6 Second, would your tribe be interested in training
7 or workshop to help build capacity to use the data
8 that we're gathering through the Earth Map
9 Resources Initiative, data and formula land and
10 resource management needs? Would your tribe be
11 interested in training or workshops to help build
12 capacity to characterize legacy mine sites on
13 tribal land? You can see some of those
14 connections between the mapping that we are
15 directed to do and some of the other areas of the
16 statute. And third, is there any other training
17 or technical support that would be useful to your
18 tribes as we're starting all this planning?

19 So those are our ideas on ways to work
20 with you and I look forward to hearing your
21 questions to us. Thank you.

22 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you, Sarah. We

1 appreciate all the work that USGS does. It was
2 originally Secretary Haaland's schedule to
3 participate in the consultation, but her schedule
4 is extremely busy and extremely tight and oh there
5 she is. Everyone, Madam Secretary, our esteemed
6 leader.

7 SECRETARY HAALAND: Thank you so much,
8 Wizi. I had my video off while folks were
9 presenting and I'm so grateful and proud to serve
10 alongside the team at DOI and really am happy that
11 all of you are here. I'm really happy to be here.
12 So (speaks in Native language), welcome colleagues
13 and friends. I'm honored to come to you from the
14 ancestral homelands of the Tanoan and Tewa people
15 here in New Mexico. And first I want to thank you
16 all for participating in this important
17 consultation which will help the Department of the
18 Interior getting your valuable input as we look to
19 implement the transformational investment that are
20 included in the President's Bipartisan
21 Infrastructure Law.

22 When our country was thrown into a

1 global pandemic in the beginning of 2020, it
2 brought to light generations of the federal
3 government's broken promises and neglect to Native
4 people. Lack of infrastructure investment over
5 years and years left indigenous communities
6 without running water, Internet connectivity,
7 access to health care and public safety and of
8 course so much more. This was not news to Indian
9 country. For generations we had to fight for
10 every inch of self-determination, consultation,
11 and investment and often learned to expect broken
12 promises, but we are in a new era and the
13 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a turning point.
14 This is a once in a lifetime, \$13 billion
15 investment in indigenous communities. With it we
16 can re-envision our future. We can build roads
17 and bridges, install water infrastructure,
18 transition to clean energy, and bolster climate
19 resilience.

20 It is an investment in the idea that we
21 cannot only re-shape our future, but also
22 safeguard the well being of our elders,

1 communities, and importantly our future
2 generations. Today's consultation will further
3 center your voices in this important work. As we
4 move forward in service to that goal, we do feel
5 with the support and commitment of President Biden
6 and the entire Biden/Harris Administration. Each
7 cabinet agency is committed to meaningful tribal
8 consultation, fulfilling our trust
9 responsibilities and strengthening our nation's
10 nation relationships across all areas of the
11 federal government.

12 As someone whose story is not unlike
13 probably all of yours, I know how much this means
14 to indigenous communities. This is an historic
15 opportunity to lend our voices to decisions that
16 impact our families and our community through the
17 administration's all of government approach to
18 consultation in which indigenous people are
19 consulted before policies are developed instead of
20 after they have been determined. Together we are
21 working to ensure that we are grounding decisions
22 in our shared heritage, utilizing traditional

1 knowledge, and always mindful that tribal leaders
2 know best how to help their own people.

3 I want you to know that the Department
4 is committed to working with you and we're eager
5 to hear your voices and priorities during this
6 consultation. Thank you so much for everything
7 you do every single day to care for your people,
8 to your end, your commitment to your community.
9 Thank you for your tremendous leadership through
10 this trying time of nearly two years of this
11 global pandemic. We are very grateful for your
12 leadership and we rely on it. Thank you so much
13 for joining us today and Wizi, do I turn it back
14 to you?

15 MR. GARRIOTT: Yes, Madam Secretary.

16 SECRETARY HAALAND: Thank you.

17 MR. GARRIOTT: In addition to such
18 historic funding and historic attention on Indian
19 issues, we at the Department have the -- we are so
20 lucky to serve under historic leadership and the
21 leadership of Secretary Haaland is phenomenal and
22 unparalleled and her commitment to Indian country

1 is -- it shows in the work and I think all of us
2 in Indian country are so blessed to serve and to
3 have you and your leadership.

4 At this time we are going to open it up
5 for comments, recommendations.

6 MR. BROOKS: This is rich. I am
7 ordering the chicken salad please.

8 MR. GARRIOTT: A real quick note; if you
9 are not speaking, make sure to mute. We hope that
10 you enjoy your chicken salad, but we are going to
11 open it up for comments from tribal leaders. As a
12 reminder, please state your name, position and
13 tribal affiliation and tribe that you're
14 representing so that we can make that a part of
15 the official record. And also just a reminder
16 that we are going to be posting questions and all
17 of the comments are open for all of the various
18 programs that we discussed. And so if you want to
19 speak, please use the raise your hand function and
20 we will do our best to call on people in the order
21 in which we see the hands raised. And I see that
22 the first hand raised was Chairman Joseph. The

1 floor is yours, sir.

2 MR. JOSEPH: Can you hear me?

3 MR. GARRIOTT: We hear you loud and
4 clear. Go ahead.

5 MR. JOSEPH: (Speaks in Native language)
6 Hello, good day, Badgers, my name -- It's good to
7 see Secretary Haaland. If you look in the
8 background, I'm the Chairman of the Colville
9 Confederated Tribes, Andy Joseph, Jr. If you look
10 on my screen on the background you can see one of
11 our mountains. We're doing renovations, 1.4
12 million acres and over the last six years we've
13 lost about 600,000 acres of our timber land and
14 our forest. The picture kind of shows a mountain
15 that's kind of bald. You can see the snow that's
16 on it. Normally it would be all the darker color
17 shade with all the trees. That just kind of
18 shows, you know, where we've lost a lot of our
19 timber. It's a small part of our reservation so
20 you can see, you know.

21 I know global warming and I'm sure is
22 really big on our President and all of it staff to

1 be working on. We want to try to get this whole
2 area back to the way it was prior to our -- I
3 probably won't really see it in my lifetime, but
4 we're going to need the resources. What I really
5 wanted to touch on is the need for initial attack
6 for our fire fighters and hopefully, you know, I
7 like looking at the budget that was presented, but
8 shows that there's funding to help with fire
9 fighting. In reality we really need to get more
10 initial attacks so that big fires like this can be
11 held to a smaller size.

12 And also on another issue that we are
13 dealing with is the two dams that we have on our
14 reservation that Chief Joe Dam and the Grand
15 Coulee Dam the need for fish passage so that the
16 salmon can get up past our dams so our people can
17 have access to getting their salmon. It would
18 actually help the whole Northwest fishery. So
19 it's really important to us. BIA is kind of --
20 law enforcement is kind of funded like our -- our
21 IHS is only about one-third of the need and that's
22 another issue where we're going to need more

1 resources to help stop that happening on our
2 reservation.

3 We did send you a letter, Secretary
4 Haaland, to invite you here to the Colville
5 Reservation. We really would like her to come and
6 tour and actually see what climate change has
7 caused to a lot of our people. Spring time,
8 what's going to happen in the mountain behind me
9 are all that snow is because it don't have shade
10 will melt off really fast and we'll have to deal
11 with floods. And when all that water goes to
12 waste and floods, in the summer time it's causing
13 the water temperature in the rivers to get too
14 high for salmon to spawn in so a lot of the work
15 that we're doing trying to bring more salmon back
16 up is kind of -- it doesn't help because the
17 salmon can't do their natural thing and go up the
18 tributaries. Have you heard about the orca and
19 that issue with the salmon?

20 Our fish hatchery has the capability of
21 producing two million salmon to, you know,
22 reintroduce into our river; also it would be

1 really -- we're really working on with the Army
2 Corps to gain access to the colder water that
3 would help with our salmon hatchery. And that is
4 another big issue with our tribe as well so, but
5 anyway I know a lot of other tribal leaders need
6 to speak to you. I won't take you and it's always
7 good to see you.

8 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you Chairman.

9 MR. DAVIS: Joe Davis, Chairman with the
10 Hoopa Valley Tribe here. We're located in the far
11 northern part of California. I have several of my
12 council members here with me. Thank you Secretary
13 Haaland and we are really thankful to, you know,
14 the entire Biden Administration for all the
15 opportunities that are being made available to the
16 tribes. We also appreciate the opportunity to
17 give this input, you know, and so, you know, there
18 are several concerns for us, you know, irrigation
19 infrastructure is a big one, you know.

20 One thing that really opened our eyes
21 during the pandemic was our dependence on outside
22 food sources and, you know, we have the land. We

1 think we have, you know, enough water right now.
2 Of course that's always a concern with the
3 drought, but you know help with our irrigation
4 infrastructure is going to be huge. Another one
5 that will be really important for us again is fire
6 as well. You know we've been funded at the same
7 level for our fire department for many years now
8 and -- and the costs continue to rise.

9 We've lost most of our best fire
10 fighters, you know, they get training. They get
11 experience, they work their way up into management
12 positions and then they leave for other outside
13 companies outside the tribes that are able to pay
14 them more. You know it's good for their families.
15 At least they can support their families in a
16 better way, but, you know, after a while, you
17 know, we have so much turnover within our fire
18 department, it becomes tough. There's not enough
19 funding for fire prevention. That's another big
20 one. We also have big dreams and goals for energy
21 production, solar, those sorts of things.

22 One thing we would ask to be considered,

1 you know, is looking at the size of the res or the
2 land bases as well as, you know, the work that the
3 tribes are doing. One thing we've seen during the
4 CARES Act is that a lot of other tribes that
5 didn't have as much responsibility as us and we're
6 a tribe, our reservation is only, you know, close
7 to a 100,000 acres and, but you know we have close
8 to 4,000 members, more than half of them live here
9 on the reservation and a lot of the services that
10 were being provided during COVID, emergency
11 services, extra police protection, a lot of the
12 things that we were doing, you know, over 500
13 employees here.

14 It was all funded by the tribe and we've
15 seen other areas where maybe those things were
16 taken care of by counties, you know, by other
17 surrounding municipalities. And yet some of these
18 tribes were getting more than we were and so, you
19 know, I would ask that we, you know, look at what
20 tribes are actually doing, you know, the size of
21 the tribe or the size of the land base and not
22 just strictly population or numbers with

1 enrollment. I think that's an important factor as
2 well, but looking at, you know, what exactly a
3 tribe does as far as the duties that are being
4 handled and what have you. And I know you guys
5 have a lot of tribes to look at so, you know, it
6 can be tough, but I do think it's for
7 consideration to see that.

8 So again we thank you for your time and
9 we look forward to working with you all going
10 forward.

11 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you, Chairman. Up
12 next we have Chairman Payment and then after that
13 Carol Evans, so Chairman Payment?

14 MR. PAYMENT: Hello, Madam Secretary.
15 That never gets old; so good to see you. I want
16 to start out with as an educator glows and grows.
17 So the glow is I want to thank you for your
18 leadership in helping us to get advance
19 appropriations as close as we have it. And for
20 everybody that's listening on this call, that
21 doesn't mean it's done yet. We have legislation
22 and the leadership of Secretary Haaland and also

1 Secretary Becerra to try to convince the
2 Administration and then also the legislators when
3 called upon to get advance cooperation for ISF to
4 cross the finish line. Don't take it for granted.
5 Reach out to your Senators and your reps, but
6 thank you so much for being able to explain that
7 so that they could understand it.

8 For the infrastructure, I know we have a
9 lot built up in our Build Back Better and our
10 plans for energy independence and I know that
11 because of the politics. Build Back Better has
12 got a different future maybe, but what I'm hoping
13 is that of the \$3 billion that I count, that's not
14 clearly identified as roads and bridges, water and
15 sewer, and broadband, plus the states,
16 territories, and tribes, that big chunk that's out
17 there that a dialogue has happened between tribes
18 and states to maybe be able to fulfill some
19 aspects of what the President's aspirations were
20 for clean energy. And so we are looking to that
21 in Michigan for maybe charging stations and some
22 energy redundancies, but if we could help

1 facilitate that dialogue maybe with the Secretary
2 Granholm who is my dear friend from Michigan,
3 maybe we can try to get something to happen that
4 were intended to happen in the Build Back Better
5 anyway.

6 So also one final thing is in the Urban
7 Indian Health Centers we have to remember not to
8 leave them behind. They have facilities that have
9 gone unmet in Detroit. American Indian Health
10 Family Services, they are operating out of an old
11 church and they've outgrown their territory there.
12 I am very proud that my second cousin is a family
13 practitioner there, a medical director for 28
14 years, but let's not forget the Urban Indian
15 Health Centers when we try to find ways to fund
16 health centers.

17 So again thank you for all of your
18 leadership and especially getting the advance
19 appropriation so close to the finish line. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you, Chairman. And
22 if I don't have -- as I give people titles wrong,

1 please forgive me. I'm going off what I'm seeing
2 in the chat. Carol Evans?

3 MS. EVANS: (Speaks in Native language)
4 Good day my friends and relatives and to you,
5 Secretary Haaland, just thank you for being here
6 and listening to us. We know how busy you are,
7 how busy your schedule is watching out for all of
8 us across the country and so we really appreciate
9 you listening to us, listening with your heart and
10 really appreciate all you're doing for us.

11 My name is Carol Evans and I'm the
12 Chairwoman of the Spokane Tribe of Indians. The
13 Spokane Tribe is located in Eastern Washington
14 State. We are next to Chairman Badger who talked
15 first so we are a sister tribe to the Colville
16 Tribe. We have approximately 3,000 tribal members
17 and about 160,000 acres and our reservation is
18 close to being surrounded by water which is good
19 for us because we are a water people, a salmon
20 people like many of the tribes.

21 So regarding the Infrastructure bill,
22 what I really would like to encourage you and all

1 of the people in the Department of Interior is to
2 really listen to all of us tribal leaders and all
3 of us that represent our tribe and realize that we
4 live in different areas. We live in different
5 climates and we all have different situations so
6 being as flexible as you possibly can with this
7 funding is important. Even when you look in
8 Washington State on the east side of the state you
9 have tribes that are fairly larger and have land
10 base versus the tribes on the west side that are
11 maybe smaller, but have larger populations than
12 they have. They're next to the ocean whereas
13 we're in dry areas and so the drought and the fire
14 impacts us. Like the Colville Tribe we have
15 problems with forest fires. We've lost homes to
16 forest fires so all of the fire money that was
17 mentioned is important that it be flexible so that
18 we can utilize those funds to make sure that we're
19 prepared for those forest fires, that we can
20 prepare our land.

21 We know that if we're able to prepare
22 our land to limit the impact of that forest fire

1 is minimized. So it's important that we be
2 flexible with the funds. Some of the needs for
3 the Spokane Tribe with the infrastructure, water,
4 waste water are important. Our public system
5 needs help to be able to bring them up to standard
6 for our people. Our roads, we have a lot of roads
7 that are substandard. And of course broadband; we
8 are not able to fully meet the needs of providing
9 the broadband to our whole reservation. That is
10 important. And even things like the impact, in
11 the presentations they talk about dam safety.
12 Well, we're behind the Grand Coulee Dam, the
13 mighty Grand Coulee Dam that does so much for our
14 nation, but we have to deal with the water rising
15 and coming down and the impact to our basin with
16 stabilization so there can be some flexibility
17 built into the funding so that we can actually
18 address those needs to prevent those landslides
19 caused from the water going up and down and
20 exposing our ancestors actually. It's real
21 important that we be flexible.

22 And the final comment I have is on this

1 passage and the northwest. We have the Columbia
2 River system with over 30 dams all over the
3 northwest affecting several states and the
4 solution to the whole fish passage has to be a
5 holistic approach. And it needs to include
6 consideration of getting the (inaudible) fish
7 above Chief Joe and the Grand Coulee Dam. And for
8 us the Ucut Tribes, the Upper Columbia United
9 Tribes, we have a plan. It's called the Phase 2
10 Implementation Plan.

11 We want to make sure that that plan is
12 able to be funded with this passage, funds
13 identified in the Infrastructure bill because fish
14 passage is important for my people, the Colville
15 people, the Coeur d'Alene people, Kootenai out of
16 Idaho, you know, we -- we were salmon people. So
17 salmon came all the way from the ocean, all the
18 way up the Columbia River, up to tributaries to
19 our people. And we have beautiful fishery harvest
20 and we drive 80 percent of our sustenance was off
21 of that beautiful salmon that we have not seen for
22 over four generations.

1 So we just want to make sure that we're
2 able to fund that Phase 2 Plan. I don't feel
3 we're asking too much. We're just asking to be
4 able to address the needs of our people and that
5 would mean helping our people heal. One of our
6 elders once said in a healing ceremony bring back
7 the salmon and we can heal. So, you know,
8 hopefully we'll get our Phase 2 funded and I just
9 have to promote that.

10 Once again, thank you for listening, all
11 of you and wishing all of you good blessings with
12 health and this COVID. I'm trying to get a lot
13 said in a little bit of time because I know there
14 are a lot that want to talk. (Speaks in Native
15 language) Thank you for listening to me.

16 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you so much. Next
17 in line we have Kroto and then Keolani Booth is up
18 next, so.

19 MR. KROTO: Thank you, Madam Secretary
20 Haaland, for your service and leadership. My name
21 is David Kroto. We are about a 14 minute hop and
22 a skip from Anchorage, the largest city in Alaska.

1 We of course, I'm just going to repeat a lot of
2 the issues that a lot of our tribes face and
3 that's dealing with of course infrastructure. We
4 have aging homes, little to no renewable energy,
5 food security. (Inaudible) has been very proactive
6 in managing fish passage. We've installed
7 numerous culverts across our properties which is
8 in an area around town which is about 43,000
9 acres, so relatively small to some of our brother
10 and sister Tribes out there in the world, but one
11 of our largest issues that we currently face right
12 now is the Chuitna River Bridge. The Chuitna
13 River is our main source of food and the bridge
14 that crosses the river is a major egress for us
15 should something happen in town which actually
16 happened a few years ago. We had a major fire in
17 Tyonek that was right at our door step and we had
18 to pull every resource we had into stopping it
19 from affecting our homes in the village. In short
20 the total of the project comes up to about \$10
21 million in Tyonek itself.

22 We pride ourselves in maintaining our

1 status as a gated community and that hasn't been
2 tested more importantly since this COVID outbreak
3 and we'd like to maintain that gated community
4 status. Unfortunately all the funding sources
5 that we had come across impacts that status in
6 some ways, having to make the areas available for
7 public access as well.

8 I would like to say thank you again for
9 your service and leadership. That's all I have,
10 thank you.

11 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you. Booth?

12 MR. BOOTH: Hello, Secretary Haaland,
13 thank you very much for this opportunity and this
14 unprecedented recognition of opportunity to
15 address the long neglected infrastructure needs.
16 I live on an island in southeast Alaska. We're
17 very isolated. We have many big infrastructure
18 needs. We are currently working on an inner type
19 project with Ketchikan near to us. Broadband
20 needs, we're just trying to get into the future
21 with what little we can. We have power brown outs
22 right now, very unreliable Internet, and also our

1 challenges -- we have challenges with our fishing
2 and our hatcheries. We're in a legal battle right
3 now to be able to keep our -- to expand our
4 fishing rights that were congressionally given to
5 us so we've got those things going on.

6 We hope that the funds that come down
7 can be leveraged. You know we've got -- we hope
8 that the DOI will consider not requiring matching
9 funds given the poor economic conditions of many,
10 many tribes including ourselves. And also we
11 support no caps on tribes. The funding should be
12 based on tribes' urgent needs not population. If
13 there are caps, some smaller tribes with pressing
14 needs lose out and we've seen that happen with the
15 CARES Act funds and we support no caps, but thank
16 you very much.

17 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you. We appreciate
18 that. And just as a reminder and one of the
19 things we do is record this and we develop a
20 summary of all of the notes and so it is helpful
21 before you speak to state your name and your title
22 and then which nation you're representing. So we

1 have Harris up next.

2 MR. HARRIS: (Speaks in Native language)

3 My name is Tom Harris and I'm a member of the
4 Tongass Tribe out of Ketchikan. I'm also a board
5 member with the Cape Fox, Vice President in the
6 Cape Fox Corporation. I also have the honor of
7 serving as the CEO for Knikatnu, the Village
8 Corporation in Wasilla. And I'm grateful for this
9 opportunity to speak and I send well wishes to all
10 our relations all over the world.

11 Behind me you see a totem house and this
12 totem house is based on one of our designs. The
13 totem house is in Gelsenkirchen, Germany and it
14 was constructed after the University of Bonn came
15 to visit us and discovered ancient relations. On
16 this totem in particular you will see salmon. And
17 it is the story that came through the box of
18 daylight when the oceans were 300 feet lower than
19 they are now.

20 Canadian scientists have verified that
21 this site was last above water 14,000 years ago.
22 So we as people, all of us have been here for at

1 least that long, and we have been managing this
2 land for that long. Yet today and this is my
3 request from the Department of Interior that as
4 you're doing surveys of what the need is, we ask
5 you also to survey how our wildlife is doing, how
6 our land is doing. If it's not doing well then
7 our time on this place is short.

8 I can tell you that in my lifetime I've
9 seen 90 percent of the salmon harvest is gone. As
10 a child I heard from my elders who said the same
11 thing, that 90 percent of the salmon they knew are
12 gone. As preparation for this, I visited with my
13 family member in Ketchikan and he said the biggest
14 salmon caught last year was 30 pounds, king
15 salmon. We used to be called the salmon capital
16 of the world. We had the largest king salmon
17 brought into Ketchikan, 150 pounds, 5'2" long and
18 now we're dealing with 30 pound salmon.

19 The United States Government Department
20 of Interior, and others U.S. Fish and Wildlife
21 helped restore salmon or put salmon into the great
22 lakes and today it is easier to catch a 46 pound

1 king salmon in New York State than it is in
2 Ketchikan. They are using technology based on
3 this totem pole re-seeding the rivers, not
4 hatcheries, re-seeding the rivers. We've talked
5 about salmon passages and culverts and that's all
6 great, but if the nurseries are bare, then the
7 salmon don't come back.

8 We recognize the salmon as the blood
9 cells of the ocean and the blood cells of our land
10 and trillions of tons of bio mass are no longer
11 migrating. The impact is enormous. We ask you to
12 see through our eyes. I'm thrilled that we have a
13 matriarch heading the Department of Interior. We
14 are matriarchal people, we're not afraid of strong
15 women. We have strong women around us. They make
16 us strong. They care for all of us and we
17 celebrate this fact and we ask that the agency
18 look at what is happening. Compare what's
19 happening to Alaska.

20 We have documented that as of 2004,
21 Alaska was the least productive wildlife state in
22 the nation. More wildlife was harvested within 50

1 miles of Washington, D.C. than was harvested in
2 all of Alaska. Kenai, the mighty Kenai Peninsula,
3 8,400 square miles, had a 97 percent drop in moose
4 harvest since statehood. And that impacts all of
5 us because this community, the Anchorage community
6 relied on that and now they are taking moose from
7 all over the state. So these are all issues that
8 are connected and we need maternal matrilineal
9 eyes to see how these things are connected. Those
10 that will look beyond the singular generation,
11 that will look seven generations backwards and
12 forwards to know what needs to be done to heal our
13 land.

14 We thank you and ask you for your
15 continued guidance. We recognize that the state
16 of Alaska has a subsistence regime, but it is a
17 subsistence regime where we are not part of the
18 management of that subsistence. We only get to
19 harvest what's left over after commercial, after
20 recreational harvest and what's left over is very
21 poor. It doesn't feed us. As a result of that,
22 Alaska leads the nation in native landowners

1 incarcerated. Alaska leads the nation in native
2 landowner's homeless because they cannot feed
3 ourselves from the lands.

4 We ask for your guidance. We ask for
5 these continued dialogues and we ask you to look
6 in the western vernacular. They say take what I
7 say with a pinch of salt and I'm going to ask you
8 don't use a pinch, use a pound. We use a pound of
9 salt to preserve food, to preserve the truth to
10 get rid of bad things. Look at what's happening
11 here and see for yourself. The information is
12 available. We ask you to examine it and help us
13 restore this land. We are the only landowners in
14 America who are denied the right to manage
15 wildlife in our own lands. If you want us to
16 survive and thrive, please help us with this.
17 (speaks in Native language)

18 I hope that nothing I've said has
19 offended anyone. It was not my intention to
20 offend, but to ask you to look at what's happening
21 here. As times get tough, we are at the end of
22 America's food line. 98 percent of all food

1 coming into Alaska -- that we have here in Alaska
2 comes from outside, imported in. And I personally
3 have seen \$30 a pound for meat when we no longer
4 harvest that meat from our own lands.

5 Thank you again and I pray health and
6 well being for everyone. (speaks in Native
7 language)

8 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you. Up next we
9 have William Micklin, but before we go there, a
10 reminder. For those who are participating via
11 phone, the raise your hand function is *9 and then
12 *6 to unmute yourself when called. So again for
13 those participating by phone, the raise your hand
14 function is *9 and then *6 to unmute yourself.
15 With that we'll go to Micklin.

16 MR. MICKLIN: (Speaks in Native
17 language) My Tlingit name is John Anise
18 (phonetic). Will Micklin is my English name and I
19 am second Vice President for the Executive
20 Council, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida
21 tribes of Alaska. Richard J. Peterson is our
22 President. We have 32,000 plus tribal citizens in

1 an area of southeast Alaska, over 135,000 square
2 miles. We are a regional tribe in southeast
3 Alaska and we will be submitting written comments.
4 I just have a couple of points to raise as
5 emphasis.

6 First, I'll bring your attention to the
7 Act's Section 60102(A)(1)(c) broadband data map.
8 This definition sets the -- determines the meaning
9 of many other definitions in the Act including
10 unserved locations, unserved service projects, and
11 unserved areas and locations, high cost areas, et
12 cetera. The definition is tied to the Section
13 802(C)(1) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C.,
14 Section 642(C)(1). That is the broadband data map
15 that is informed by the 477 data Federal
16 Communications Commission collect and that map is
17 notoriously in error for most of Indian country
18 for a significant portion of Indian country.
19 And the Data Act, can you hear me?

20 MR. GARRIOTT: We hear you.

21 MR. MICKLIN: Okay. The Data Act
22 addressed this, enacted by Congress, but the

1 product of the Data Act won't be available until
2 likely the end of this year or next year and so we
3 are asking for a flexible interpretation to the
4 point of self certification by eligible tribes
5 that they are unserved or underserved despite what
6 the broadband map would show that does need
7 significant correction.

8 Second is the requirement for a match as
9 a non- federal share is fairly significant in the
10 Act. We are seeking flexibility for waivers. The
11 imposition of the match is a significant burden on
12 tribes. What we have in COVID relief money and
13 other in this Infrastructure Act and others seem
14 significant, but our burden is great and we are
15 stretched to the point of being -- it would be a
16 difficult chore to find additional match in the
17 percentages called for in the Act without
18 assistance or waivers granted for the eligible
19 applicants. And we ask you to seriously consider
20 that.

21 We're also noting that the broadband
22 middle mile is a back hull. It is funded at \$1

1 billion in the Act. We are stressing that that
2 should not define the emphasis in that area
3 because the middle mile projects are the
4 significant inhibitor for connectivity broadband
5 to Indian country. The \$42.45 billion in the
6 other provision in the bulk of the broadband
7 funding should be equally as receptive to middle
8 mile projects because of its point of emphasis in
9 Indian country.

10 And I also point to in Section 21205 of
11 the Act and Section 3005 is provided immediately
12 bundling and this is from the transportation
13 portion of the Act and it provides for ineligible
14 applicants such as the tribe to bundle
15 transportation projects with other projects like
16 energy projects or broadband deployment projects.
17 We believe this is a real point of emphasis. We
18 encourage the exercise of this authority within
19 the Act. Broadband is essential, but it's really
20 no good without reliable stable energy that is at
21 reasonable cost and we suffer from not just high
22 cost energy, but the lack of electrification in

1 many areas and transportation is essential as
2 well.

3 Our transportation system of course
4 extends in southeast Alaska to the Marine Highway
5 in our ferry system, but bundling will be
6 significant because all areas of infrastructure in
7 most of Indian country is sufficient. Addressing
8 one without addressing them all will not raise us
9 to the level equal to other areas and particularly
10 in Alaska to the level of expectation in other 49
11 states.

12 So we encourage the Administration and
13 the Secretary embracing the immediate bundling
14 authority within the Act and extending that
15 favorably to tribes. And finally we recommend
16 that the great sensitivity to directing funds
17 directed to tribes. I know much of the Act's
18 funds are directed through the states. The states
19 are in different statuses with regard to
20 interacting with tribes and conveying those funds
21 to tribes that would benefit not just tribes, but
22 states in our regional communities as well as

1 tribes rise, as our interests rise so do our
2 communities and our regions, but that states have
3 proven to be somewhat unreliable partners in the
4 conveyance of federal monies to tribes so we ask
5 for special attention to providing direct funding
6 where possible and ensuring that those funds are
7 conveyed at the earliest possible opportunity in
8 the amount contemplated and available under the
9 Act.

10 And again we will submit written
11 comments. Thank you for the opportunity to
12 provide to our leaders. (Speaks in Native
13 language)

14 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you. We're ready
15 to move on. We're getting a ton of feedback here.
16 Not quite sure what that is. Maybe unmute and try
17 again. Mr. Lujan, it looks like your screen is
18 frozen. Perhaps while we wait for that. Okay,
19 you're unfrozen. We're getting a ton of feedback
20 here.

21 MR. LUJAN: Sorry about that. Can you
22 hear me?

1 MR. GARRIOTT: We can, but we're getting
2 a ton of feedback. Perhaps if you log off and log
3 back on. Sometimes that can help if you log back
4 on. Perhaps put it on mute.

5 MS. BROWN: It also has phone number
6 included in the registry and it may be easier to
7 call in using the dial in and we will make sure to
8 have you come up next.

9 MR. GARRIOTT: Mr. Lujan, there you go.
10 We see that the Metlakatla Indian Community is up
11 next.

12 MR. SMITH: Thank you, good afternoon.
13 Mayor Albert Smith of Metlakatla Alaska. I want
14 to thank Secretary Haaland and the various
15 officials presenting today. It is truly an honor
16 to see our native leaders dealing with long
17 neglected issues in Indian country and it's about
18 time. My tribe in the Metlakatla Indian Community
19 is suffering greatly. We have experienced
20 drought, climate change, power failures, and
21 serious impacts on our fisheries. We need a lot
22 of help and I hope we can get this money to work

1 in my community and other tribal communities as
2 soon as possible. Thank you.

3 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you. We appreciate
4 that. Mr. Lujan, do you want to -- shall we try
5 again? Unmute and let's see if we have any
6 feedback. Can you hear us, Mr. Lujan? It sounds
7 like we may have some continuing issues there. I
8 don't see other raised hands. If there are tribal
9 leaders who would like to speak, please raise your
10 hand and then we can call on you.

11 As we wait for that, one of the things
12 that we've heard and that we're keenly aware of is
13 the, you know, that there is a lot of
14 infrastructure funding beyond simply what is the
15 Department of Interior and while we are, this
16 consultation is specific to the U.S. Department of
17 Interior infrastructure funding, Secretary Haaland
18 also chairs the White House Native American
19 Council and she is the co-chair along with
20 Ambassador Rice from the Domestic Policy Council
21 at the White House. And through the inter agency
22 council, the Secretary works with other cabinet

1 level leaders, her counterparts of departments and
2 agencies on a wide variety of Indian policy
3 issues. And so when comments are made or
4 recommendations are made that don't necessarily
5 directly impact the Department of Interior
6 funding, but deal with other agencies, that we do
7 pass those on to our appropriate counterparts.
8 For example the Department of Transportation and
9 Department of Energy where we have heard some of
10 those comments. So we've also heard, you know,
11 broadband comments as well. So just wanted to let
12 everyone know, you know, that that's what we do
13 when we hear those comments that we make sure that
14 they are passed on.

15 Mr. Lujan, do you want to try again; try
16 one more time? Okay, I think we hear you.

17 MR. LUJAN: Thank you and good
18 afternoon. I hope you can hear me. This is a
19 classic example of the broadband problems that
20 tribal nations are force to deal with and the
21 COVID pandemic. We thought we had the problem
22 solved, but installing fiber optic lines to

1 residential areas in our community who had
2 students because they were more important than
3 opposite because education as you know is vital to
4 our progress and just wanted to say thank you to
5 Mr. Garriott and Madam Secretary for making this
6 time to hear us and our concerns and various
7 tribal nations, 573, something like that.

8 Anyway, Taos Pueblo recently celebrated
9 its 50th anniversary of the return of Blue Lake
10 which was in 1970 which set the precedent for land
11 litigation between tribal nations and the U.S.
12 Government and opened the door to other
13 legislation like the American Indian Religious
14 Freedom Act, the Historic Preservation Act, the
15 Cultural Resource, and Archeological Protection
16 Act, and several other things that go along with
17 preserving our cultures and our traditions. And
18 we thank Madam Secretary for her leadership and
19 her guidance and representation at the executive
20 level and we appreciate that.

21 Tribal leaders have already expressed a
22 lot of concerns that we have as well, the match

1 waivers, the cap on some of the funding, but I
2 just wanted to reiterate that we do have a lot of
3 infrastructure needs and the return of our land
4 that we are still faced with. I mean we are still
5 considered in many regards a third world country.
6 We have inadequate housing. We know that a lot of
7 our people are renting in the town because we
8 don't have enough housing and modern housing. We
9 still have some homes that don't have rates,
10 sewage treatment from their homes. We don't --
11 some houses don't have water. Some have
12 inadequate heating sources. We're dependent here
13 in this area on propane and gas which is very
14 expensive and we would like to get natural gas
15 lines on to the reservation.

16 With regard to our Blue Lake land, we
17 still have areas that are patrolled by our
18 rangers, wilderness rangers who are certified law
19 enforcement people and they go back into back
20 country of the 48,000 acres that they have to
21 patrol in addition to their 80,000 acres that are
22 part of our Pueblo land grant and which combine

1 for about 112,000 acres and there's still areas
2 where they are without communication and if
3 anything should happen to them, they're pretty
4 much on their own and we are blessed that nothing
5 has happened to them.

6 Our Cutthroat Trout is endangered by the
7 water pollution that is happening. We have a big
8 ski area, Taos Ski Valley which is adjacent to our
9 tribal homeland through our Blue Lake watershed
10 and they recently were approved for snow making
11 operations to expand those operations as well as
12 to expand their lift capacity up the mountains and
13 almost upon the other side of our land and that is
14 a major factor in our watershed.

15 They are pulling a lot of water to make
16 snow. It is an economic engine for the area here,
17 but at the sacrifice of our water it's kind of an
18 imbalance that we're seeing. We're still
19 experience encroachment on our lands which is
20 creating jurisdictional problems for us with
21 regard to how we treat non-Indian encroachers.

22 We are trying to be self-sufficient with

1 food sovereignty. We are reviving our
2 agricultural practices, but it is really hard
3 because we don't have the water to sustain that
4 agriculture and because we're in the southwest, we
5 are going through a drought right now. There's a
6 lot of areas are in the tribal nations that I've
7 heard this morning and that's a significant factor
8 for food sovereignty so we're building the
9 capacity to store food. We have buffalo and we
10 have game in our Wild Game and Fish Department
11 which is sustaining the community during these
12 COVID times to supplement the diet that we have so
13 that's been helpful, but recently we received some
14 money through the CARES Act to build some
15 warehouses and to build some buildings so that we
16 can do that.

17 And we have tried to maintain our Pueblo
18 because it is a world heritage site and we were
19 dependent -- I would say 50 percent dependent on
20 tourism for a lot of our revenue and now that's
21 shut down. We have a casino that's also
22 struggling economically to supplement our revenue.

1 So this infrastructure assistance that the federal
2 government is providing is welcome, but as the
3 lady from Washington, I forget which tribe leaders
4 stated, there are still a lot of things that are
5 going under the radar that we as tribal leaders
6 need to bring to the forefront.

7 I am to get back to your requirements.
8 My name is Bernard Lujan. I am Deputy Travel
9 Program Administrator for Taos Pueblo and we are
10 located in the northern part of New Mexico. And I
11 want to thank you and everybody that participated
12 today and Madam Secretary. Again, we appreciate
13 your leadership and your guidance. Have a good
14 day.

15 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you. Are there
16 others who would like to make a comment?

17 MR. SMITH: If there is still some time
18 left, this is Mayor Smith of Metlakatla. I would
19 like to say something again.

20 MR. GARRIOTT: Yes, absolutely.

21 MR. SMITH: Okay. I wasn't sure on the
22 time there earlier so I kind of cut it a little

1 short. But we're a very large -- largely
2 dependent on fishing in our community and our fish
3 plant was one of the longest running fish plants
4 in the state up until a few years ago. We still
5 operate ice out of it, but the issue we have is
6 with all the droughts we had in the past, you
7 know, the streams have really affected our natural
8 runs so we've been working on our hatchery and
9 increasing production with the hatcheries. And
10 we've come a long way, but the infrastructure
11 there is getting old also so, you know, we need a
12 new water line coming from the lakes and stuff
13 like that. With that happening we could increase
14 our sustainability and get our fish plant running
15 again so which leads into another one.

16 We have our power struggle as we stated
17 before, both myself and Councilman Keolani Booth
18 who spoke earlier. You know raising our dam at
19 Chester Lake is a very high priority on our list
20 also and that also will increase our use of the
21 water for the community and also it's also a power
22 source. So there's some big things that we're

1 excited to get the opportunity to go after these
2 funds and I can't stress enough on capping some of
3 the smaller places off on what's available to us.
4 I know everybody, you know, I've heard a lot of
5 people speak today and they all have very, very
6 good stuff they need to work on also, but you know
7 I strongly encourage you to not cap off the
8 smaller communities and that's all I have so thank
9 you.

10 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you. Chairman
11 Joseph.

12 MR. JOSEPH: Can you hear me?

13 MR. GARRIOTT: Yes.

14 MR. JOSEPH: (Speaks in Native language)
15 Andrew Joseph is my name. Again, I just want to
16 ask about Illinois is dealing with our big fire.
17 We have these different departments that are under
18 the Secretary. We need to be able to work
19 together to help get things processed a lot
20 faster. Sometimes the route that some of our
21 departments have to go through have a lot of --
22 everybody's got to find different inquiries or

1 different things that we need to build to, like if
2 they're signing up for a big tanker or something
3 to come in and help for a contract to do certain
4 work from different departments, sometimes they go
5 through a very lengthy process that somebody
6 should be able to take charge and say okay get it
7 there. They need it for their fire to minimize
8 the damage, but it's a lot longer.

9 There's another issue that we need the
10 Secretary to look at and the 1310 line on the
11 Grand Coulee Dam and jurisdictional issues. You
12 know our tribe was given the rights to all of the
13 jurisdiction on our land and when they put Grand
14 Coulee Dam in there, there's all these different
15 branches I believe that are also under the
16 Secretary that they could probably straighten it
17 all out with her pen, but you know the Colville
18 Tribe had the first rights there and we never have
19 given them up that jurisdiction.

20 The parks want some of it. The Burial
21 Rec wants some of it. That's one of the other
22 reasons why we want the Secretary to come and

1 visit us to discuss issues and I just wanted to
2 state that being simpler and get the fires out,
3 the sooner the better, the damage and the less
4 cost to erase the damage.

5 The Tribes have suffered the most loss
6 should be able to have the most set aside for
7 restoration.

8 MS. BROWN: Chairman Joseph, your audio
9 is going in and out.

10 MR. GARRIOTT: You know we're having a
11 difficult time hearing.

12 MR. JOSEPH: We will be sending in
13 written testimony.

14 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you. We appreciate
15 that. Quincy Ellenwood is up next, Quincy?

16 MR. ELLENWOOD: (Speaks in Native
17 language) Good day to my friends and relatives
18 across this great nation. I'm known to my people
19 is Tsi-Yo-Kum. My English name is Quincy
20 Ellenwood, a member of the Nez Perce Nation and
21 member of the Nez Perce Tribe Executive Committee
22 serving as the Natural Resource Chairman. I just

1 want to say (speaks in Native language), thank you
2 to everybody who has taken this time across this
3 great nation to give some testimony to the
4 counterparts at the Department of Interior. Thank
5 you for the time that you have allowed us to give
6 a little bit of testimony here and for Secretary
7 Haaland being able to chime in on this meeting. I
8 look forward to the other consultations as well.

9 I just wanted to emphasize a little bit
10 on the watershed restorations. The Nez Perce
11 Tribe has one of the largest fisheries and magic
12 lands in North America and has been very
13 successful. And as we know, you know, the
14 watersheds are dependent hugely to the water
15 quality and to the return of salmon. The spring
16 run is heavily dependent upon what the Nez Perce
17 people and the other tribes in the Pacific
18 Northwest and over 75 percent of the spring run is
19 Idaho bound fish.

20 And I really want to advocate really
21 strongly for our fisheries and our watershed
22 department and management and what comes with that

1 too is also wildlife and forestry. And again the
2 Nez Perce Tribe has won an award from -- a
3 prestigious award from Harvard for our fisheries
4 and our recovery projects. And watershed is a
5 huge contributor to, you know, to the water
6 quality that the salmon, wildlife, forestry and
7 also agricultural lands as well.

8 I just want to give a short little
9 testimony on that and I just want to say thank you
10 to all that are on line and for hearing all the
11 great words across -- the great needs across this
12 great nation from the many respective sovereigns
13 on this line. (Speaks in Native language)

14 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you. We appreciate
15 that. Elveda Martinez.

16 MS. MARTINEZ: Hello everybody. Elveda
17 Martinez, Water Resources Coordinator for the
18 Walker River Paiute Tribe in Nevada. I just
19 wanted -- I mean just like everybody else, our
20 tribe needs all of these other things, but the one
21 thing that I've been working on for years is
22 irrigation. So I'm really happy to see that.

1 There has been some funding set aside for
2 irrigation programs because this is one thing that
3 there hasn't been money for.

4 For example, right now, you know, we
5 apply for funding through the Bureau of
6 Reclamation, NRCS all the time, but there is never
7 enough money to do even one mile of ditch. For
8 example, right now we have seven miles of our
9 irrigation canal engineers ready to go. The
10 average cost is \$1 million a mile so when we
11 request funding from NRCS, we can get about
12 \$100,000 per mile which is not enough in our tribe
13 visits; have enough, plus then we are required to
14 have a match. So I'm really hoping that we can
15 use some of this irrigation money to maybe match
16 some of our NRCS funding that again we've applied
17 for. So we're gonna continue on with that.

18 The other thing is, you know, it's \$50
19 million for irrigation and the power system and
20 that's 70 percent for irrigation which is \$35
21 million. We have 44 miles of irrigation canal
22 that is old so, you know, our tribe alone could

1 use that \$35 million. So again I'm just happy to
2 see any money in there at all.

3 I just wanted to say thank you because I
4 always feel like, you know, irrigation
5 infrastructure is always left out of the pot so
6 when this was include in there, you know, It
7 really made me happy so I'm hoping that our tribe
8 is a tribe in Nevada that is going to be needing
9 some of this funding as well as the Blue Lake
10 Tribe and I'm sure there are others in the
11 southwest region. You know again our farmers, you
12 know, a lot of -- this is their livelihood and
13 having a good irrigation system to get water to
14 their lands.

15 Another big thing that's going to happen
16 this year and we're really happy that, you know,
17 the Sierra Nevada's got, you know, extensive snow,
18 you know. We're in the drought, so we're happy to
19 see the snow up there, but with over 220 percent
20 of normal snow pack, our Tribe is going to see
21 flooding. So, you know, again that's probably
22 another discussion with FEMA and the state of

1 Nevada and everywhere else when that water starts
2 flowing off that mountain this spring and summer.
3 But anyway I'm just so happy to see that there's
4 irrigation funding and I'm just sorry that there's
5 not enough, but I realize, you know, these other
6 issues are more pressing and I understand that so
7 thank you.

8 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you. We appreciate
9 that and thank you for your comments. We continue
10 to invite others to the raised hand function to
11 provide comments or if you're on the phone to use
12 *9 or if you're unable to use either of those,
13 send a note in the chat box and, you know, we can
14 take a look at that. Also, just kind of as a
15 reminder the comments that are made,
16 recommendations that are made in the chat box also
17 become a part of the official record. So if you
18 do not wish to say anything verbally, you can
19 always put that into the chat box and we can
20 incorporate that as part of the record. And then
21 also February 4th is the deadline to submit
22 written comments. Those are always extremely

1 helpful and also become a part of official records
2 when we host and conduct consultations. So again,
3 if there are others, just use the retain
4 (phonetic) function or the *9 function and we can
5 call on you.

6 And then just to kind of as we wait for
7 other tribal leaders to make a comment, one of the
8 things we're also hearing is that many of these
9 challenges, especially related to climate and
10 infrastructure don't exist in a vacuum. And that,
11 you know, perhaps often times when a road is
12 needed there's probably a need for broadband. And
13 when there is a need for broadband and a road,
14 there's probably a need for water and sewer. And
15 so that, you know, a part of that is that the
16 inter agency coordination is going to be
17 incredibly important because other agencies are
18 going to have resources and funding that can
19 address some of those areas like Department of
20 Transportation, EPA, Indian House Service, and
21 others.

22 And, you know, again, on the eco system

1 part of things, you know, when there's a flood it
2 impacts more than simply infrastructure and homes
3 because there's an incredible toll taken on our
4 relatives in the plant and wildlife world and they
5 suffer as well and when we consider the impact and
6 design of our projects that we should also very
7 much take into account wildlife and plant eco
8 system healthy as well.

9 Are there others that would like to make
10 a comment, recommendations for the record?

11 MS. BROWN: If you're using a site
12 phone, you can make a comment by pressing *9 to
13 raise a virtual hand or star -- and then *6 to
14 unmute. Again, that's *9 to raise your hand and
15 *6 to unmute. Thank you.

16 MR. GARRIOTT: We also understand that
17 there's a lot of information that has been
18 presented today and also there is a lot of
19 information contained in the Dear Tribal Leader
20 letter. It was one of the more longer letters
21 that I've seen, but necessary because of just the
22 massive scope of all of the information that

1 needed to be communicated and that all of the vary
2 and different programs, but it also provided an
3 amazing overview of all of the different programs
4 and funding that are either tribal specific or the
5 tribes will be eligible to apply for. So we
6 appreciate everyone's patience and due diligence
7 in reviewing those documents and being able to
8 digest the information contained therein and to be
9 able to respond appropriately and accordingly with
10 ideas and recommendations for us to consider.

11 Again, we invite folks to do the raised
12 hand function and make comments.

13 I see that Will Micklin has raised his
14 hand again, Will?

15 MR. MICKLIN: Thank you. Will Micklin,
16 (speaks in Native language) Central Council of
17 Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Second
18 Vice President.

19 Just to comment on the climate change
20 provisions of the Act. We are grateful for the
21 assistance we've received in developing our
22 climate change adaptation and resiliency plans.

1 It's a big chore for an area the size of southeast
2 Alaska, a lot of variables, a lot of uncertainties
3 to consider. What I would simply request is that
4 we've done our share of planning.

5 What we need now are action oriented
6 activities in particular risk assessments of each
7 of our communities to determine where we have
8 infrastructure sufficiencies, where we are most
9 susceptible to the impacts of climate change and
10 where we have opportunities for adaptation. These
11 comprehensive risk assessments would be different
12 for each of our communities, but would integrate
13 all of those findings for various types of
14 infrastructure, whether it is energy or housing,
15 communication, transportation, and as well with
16 environmental issues.

17 All of those need to be integrated
18 because it's a problem we can approach on an item
19 by item or subject by subject basis. It really
20 needs to be integrated and we need those working
21 documents for those close reviews, investigations
22 of where we have risk and where we have

1 opportunities in order to apply the funds
2 available and advocacy to find those that funding
3 to address those issues. We're standing on the
4 precipice of significant climate change over the
5 next several years, more than we can imagine today
6 and the time for the overall planning is done.
7 It's now time for action oriented reviews and
8 assigning resources to those needs on a very
9 integrated, cohesive basis.

10 So I am simply saying we are hoping that
11 the funding under the Act doesn't just go to the
12 planning, much of which has been done. I know not
13 every community has done it, but in most instances
14 we need to move on to those that task planning to
15 get to actually perform in those areas where we
16 have a current opportunity before it's too late in
17 many areas. Thank you.

18 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you. Stephen
19 Ivanoff, Stephen, your hand is raised, unmute.

20 MR. IVANOFF: I'm having problems
21 figuring this out here. I've been using Zoom for a
22 while and I still can't figure everything out.

1 We have a lot of issues in relation to
2 climate change, but one of the ones that I would
3 like to elaborate on is all the money that has
4 gone towards Internet services. In rural Alaska
5 we use up our data pretty quickly. We have
6 students in your house boat taking university
7 classes. In my home we have to purchase two
8 agreements so we have fast enough Internet to
9 finish up their classes, two agreements per month
10 which becomes a burden because it's pretty
11 expensive for one agreement, but recognizing the
12 importance of education, it's been a priority for
13 us. But you would think with all the revenue
14 that's going into the Internet services we'd be
15 able to have affordable Internet for the homes in
16 rural Alaska.

17 With climate change a few years back, we
18 had Governor Palin created a sub cabinet on
19 climate change in the state of Alaska and I served
20 on the Immediate Action Work Group which was huge
21 and beneficial. And I also served on the Denali
22 Commissions, Denali Assets Program and those

1 organizations had staff members from state and
2 federal agencies so when we had issues dealing
3 with climate change we were basically a one stop
4 shop scenario. Unfortunately those have gone
5 away. The funding has gone away as had the Indian
6 Roads Reservations have priority projects.

7 I understand those high priority
8 projects may come back. I hope it does, but it's
9 been frustrating that the doors have closed for
10 our access to funding in rural Alaska. We have
11 villages like Shageluk (phonetic) that in a storm
12 are a complete island. They have higher ground
13 about five miles away, but no access to relocate
14 to that site. The access road that we have
15 installed in unit feet has really benefited the
16 village.

17 We have over 40 homes in the hillside
18 built in the last couple of years, but the
19 inadequate road structure provides a real hazard
20 for our students. They need to go to school every
21 day. Have a nephew that came close to major
22 injuries. He rolled over in his truck on his way

1 to school, but if we're going to encourage
2 migration, we best start to deal with climate
3 change to get out of the flood zone area. We need
4 to have make sure our kids can get to school
5 safely. I know there are some states have safety
6 kids to school programs and new transportation
7 programs. I don't think we have that up here in
8 Alaska.

9 And being in a village with the state
10 DOT, we're not high priority on this because of
11 the lack of numbers, but in a perfect storm in
12 Shageluk, it is stated that they're a complete
13 island. If there was a perfect storm they would
14 be totally inundated and the ocean would just run
15 right over them. As stated a few years back, one
16 of the residents said the only action they've had
17 is getting in a boat. And who would get in a boat
18 with 60 or 70 mile an hour winds with miles of ice
19 everywhere in the dark because they're afraid to
20 have an in the dark --

21 So there is a need to, one, provide
22 access to it, two, make sure those access roads

1 are safe to get out kids to school in the
2 populated area. Also there is a road that allows
3 the community to relocate over a period of time.
4 We have seen that a number of our villages have
5 stressed the need to relocate, but the reality is
6 that the lack of funding prohibits a one time move
7 because there is not enough money available for
8 that to happen.

9 We are grateful that they are dealing
10 with our water situation in our village. And with
11 acknowledging other villages that don't have what
12 we've had since 1964, we support your efforts to
13 throw away or as stated put it in the museum. And
14 I would like to thank you all for having this.
15 It's nice to get your story out.

16 I made a comment that the doors have
17 closed on us and many funding sources and we
18 really need to get committed like they made an
19 action work group in the Denali Transportation
20 Program we had. We have stakeholders where you
21 have staff members, where you have legislators
22 sitting on these committees or staff members of

1 the legislators sitting on those committees so we
2 don't have to tell our story ten times. That was
3 a huge benefit that we really miss and we need to
4 reinstate. Thank you so much.

5 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you. It is always
6 important for us to hear about the urgency of some
7 of these needs. Carol, your hand is raised.

8 MS. EVANS: Hello once again. I didn't
9 mean to take too much time, but seeing that no
10 other tribal leaders had their hands raised, I did
11 want to add two comments that I had made earlier.
12 Once again, Carol Evans, Chairwoman of the Spokane
13 Tribe of Indians. Our reservation is located in
14 eastern Washington State.

15 I too like Chairman Andy Joseph from
16 Colville Tribe would like to formally invite
17 Secretary Haaland to visit our reservation when
18 she gets the chance. We share borders with the
19 Colville Tribe of Indians and it would be -- we'd
20 be honored to welcome her to our reservation.

21 I wanted to actually address a couple of
22 the questions that were presented to our group

1 that I have access for the Spokane Tribe and it
2 deals with wild fire resilience. So the question
3 asked is which wild fire resilience program had
4 the potential to be the most important to your
5 tribe and also where do you see your tribes having
6 capacity to implement these programs through
7 contracts or agreements. So the Spokane Tribe
8 would say that the most important program noted is
9 that the information, excuse me, information sent
10 out is to preparedness program. And having
11 adequate staff, facilities, training, and
12 equipment is essential to the success of
13 preparedness, all of which have been historically
14 under- funded.

15 The tribe has already assumed the
16 function of the activities of this particular
17 program through a 638 contract with BIA. However,
18 much like the base program contract support costs
19 is a concern as it relates to capacity. Through
20 the 638 contract already in place, the Spokane
21 tribal preparedness program could utilize
22 infrastructure funds to enhance this program's

1 goals of protecting tribal resources, our values
2 and community from the threat of wild land fire, a
3 basic premise of trust responsibility.

4 Another question that was asked, does
5 your tribe participate in any of these programs?
6 And I'm still referring to the fire program. I'm
7 sorry, I keep getting calls and it's hard for me
8 to control that. So just how to participate in
9 any of these programs currently is what works well
10 and what aspects of the program need improvement.
11 The Spokane Tribe participates and preparedness,
12 yield management, burned area rehabilitation, and
13 wild land fire fighter work force.

14 Through self-determination authority,
15 the Spokane Tribe is able to more directly address
16 these tribal needs. The process in which funding
17 has moved to the 638 contract to the tribe has
18 worked good in the past, however, staff on both
19 the BIA and tribal side could be stressed in
20 consideration of taking on such a massive funding
21 operated -- could be stressed on taking on this
22 massive funding opportunity of the Infrastructure

1 bill.

2 So we believe the BIA needs to improve
3 capacity and efficiency in getting these funds
4 moved out in a timely manner. So to address these
5 issues we really need to see the funds come out
6 timely and efficient and I know it's important
7 that you hear all of our needs and what we need
8 and how we need it. So I appreciate you taking
9 the time to hear that, but at the same time we
10 need to get these funds out for these vital needs
11 that I bring up and all of the other tribal
12 leaders that have been on this call today.

13 So once again I thank you for allowing
14 me to add additional comments and you take care
15 and may our creator bless each and every one of
16 you.

17 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you, Chairwoman.
18 Another consistent theme that we're hearing is
19 that, you know, when funding is awarded, the use
20 of existing 638 or contract is in many instances
21 going to be an efficient way to get the funds to
22 tribes and so that it's going to be important to

1 have some flexibility and to work with tribes and
2 identify what those most important or what the
3 most expedient and easiest way and lease
4 burdensome way to ensure a transfer of funds. I
5 think that that's been a clear and consistent
6 theme that we've heard today and I really
7 appreciate that and it's definitely something that
8 we have contemplated that where allowable and
9 applicable that we want to be able to do that.

10 Are there other tribal leaders who would
11 like to make a comment? There was also a question
12 on timeline. For different agencies and for
13 different funding streams within all of the
14 different agencies, there are different timelines.
15 And so there are some parts of Interior that have
16 to move a little bit quicker than others because
17 of the statutory guidelines in that. We have to
18 have certain deadlines that we have to have in
19 place with regard to having our spend plans in
20 place which is why we wanted to make sure that we
21 had this consultation as quickly as possible.
22 Under kind of different and kind of other

1 consultation formats, we have a longer period for
2 written comments, but you know we have certain
3 deadlines that are contained within the statute
4 that we have to be able to report on and have it
5 placed so that's part of the reason why we're able
6 to move so quickly on this and wanting to make
7 sure that we have this consultation, but
8 generally, you know, as kind of a broad statement,
9 you know, we have to have our plans in place
10 around 90 days after the enactment.

11 So as we finalize, you know, all of the
12 comments and, you know, we're able to incorporate
13 as much of this as we can into the administration
14 of the program, then we'll be able to share more
15 concrete deadlines, but again even, you know,
16 comments on, you know, moving quickly or moving
17 more slowly in the administration of the programs
18 is also very important for us to be there as well.
19 You know we've heard in some instances that, you
20 know, have very urgent needs, that we need to move
21 very quickly, and then we've also heard that in
22 certain instances, you know, we should move a

1 little bit more carefully to ensure proper
2 administration of the program so those comments
3 are also important and always appreciated.

4 Are there others? We have other federal
5 partners. Indian Affairs is helping and assisting
6 in the kind of coordination of this consultation.
7 This is a consultation on all of the Department of
8 Interior programs for which tribes are eligible.
9 So it is not strictly an Indian Affairs
10 consultation and so if there are other folks from
11 our other areas and hallway, we invite you to make
12 any comments as well and, you know, answer any
13 specific questions that have come up, kind of make
14 general statements if there is anything that you
15 want to contribute as well. David.

16 MR. BOXLEY: (Speaks in Native language)
17 Hello everyone. My name is Gyibaawm laxha, David
18 R. Boxley. I'm from Metakatla, Alaska. I sit on
19 the Tribal Council. Versions of this have been
20 mentioned, but on top of the flexibility that I
21 hope to see in how funds can be used in different
22 regions depending on the needs of the tribe, it

1 would be nice to see in each of those flexible
2 approaches flexibility also within each of those
3 that projects can be fulfilled with the funding
4 available and limitations not be set on too much
5 that we can achieve, what we need to achieve
6 within unique circumstances of where we live in
7 the world and not be hindered by unnecessary
8 restrictions in the funding.

9 I'm very honored to be part of this
10 discussion today. I've enjoyed listening to you
11 all, to Secretary Haaland or Secretary Garriott.
12 Thank you very much and (speaks in Native
13 language), thank you all.

14 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you. Are there
15 others?

16 MS. GREENBERGER: I would just say one
17 thing if there's a moment with regard to the eco
18 system restoration program that I talked about
19 earlier. Secretary Garriott is correct that we
20 all have to have the initial spend plan completed
21 by February 11th for Congress. I think the spend
22 plan will look different depending on how much

1 mature the programs are. So for one like eco
2 system restoration where it is very new, that
3 spend plan will be very, very high level, but
4 there will still be decisions to be made.

5 So this is an initial request for
6 feedback that can help shape that high level
7 framing, but there will be I think at least for
8 this program, you know, more opportunities and a
9 little bit longer timeline both for 2022 and then
10 for out years as we continue to shape what that
11 program looks like. So I expect for some of the
12 programs again that are newer, we'll be coming
13 back to you at various points for additional
14 feedback. So I know it seems very, very rushed
15 and it is for all of us as well as you, but you
16 are not all of the decisions that are going to
17 need to be made in the next two weeks for all of
18 these programs.

19 MR. GARRIOTT: Just as a reminder, Sarah
20 Greenberger is the Associate Deputy Secretary for
21 Interior. She works directly in the Office of the
22 Secretary assisting and overseeing all of the

1 activities of the entire Department of Interior.
2 And so I also think it is really important to kind
3 of note that Secretary Haaland has set a very
4 strong tone that it's not just Indian Affairs that
5 has a trust responsibility with tribal nations,
6 but it's all of the Department of Interior as a
7 strong advocate across the entire federal
8 government. And so we're fortunate to work with
9 leaders like Sarah and others who have a strong
10 dedication to Indian country.

11 Are there other comments from tribal
12 leaders?

13 MS. BROWN: I believe that Chairman
14 Joseph wants to testify.

15 MR. GARRIOTT: Oh, okay.

16 MR. JOSEPH: I'm going to turn my video
17 off. Maybe it will make the sound come in better.
18 What I wanted to talk about was Aaron Payment
19 kind of hit on it. I've been co-Chair
20 for the National High Chest budget and the budget
21 has always been gone through the discretionary
22 side of the budget in the past when that happens

1 or High Chest Work Group that works on the budget.
2 And all my time being on the council, the 18 years
3 I worked on the budget work group, we've never
4 actually been able to follow that budget and
5 present it to the Secretary because I know do
6 present it to the Secretary of IHS, but it isn't
7 under the Department of IHS when it gets, you
8 know, its approval so I was always wanting to
9 bring it through the Secretary. And it would be
10 awesome for Deb Haaland to be the first one to
11 hear that report, but also I too support advance
12 appropriations and we could use the Secretary's
13 help on that. I would say two secretaries might
14 be better than just one, you know, working on the
15 issue. We've been working on full funding for
16 quite a few years and it's really important.

17 One other thing though that's pending up
18 in our territory here in North Central, Washington
19 is the Columbia River Treaty and that Treaty is
20 between the United States and Canada. Anyway that
21 will impact how things happen here on our land
22 where, you know, we would like to ensure that our

1 tribal issues are included and that we're included
2 as a government to government sovereign nations
3 and there are several tribes in the upper Columbia
4 that I believe we need to have a voice in that
5 treaty.

6 We definitely would want fish passage
7 over Chief Joe and Gran Coulee Dam potentially
8 included in that treaty agreement. So, you know,
9 back when President Roosevelt came and wanted to
10 build the Great Coulee Dam, they never engineered
11 it to have a fish ladder or salmon passage and the
12 same thing with the Chief Joe Dam, but there are
13 modern ways to get the salmon up over the dam.
14 It's called a wash system and if that system could
15 be funded I believe that the salmon could run on
16 up into Canada, you know, past the dams and that
17 would, you know, help bring more salmon to the
18 whole Northwest fishery, to the world actually.

19 Actually prior to the dams being there,
20 there was a time when over a thousand pounds of
21 salmon were taken out of the Columbia River at the
22 Kettle Falls fishery and our tribe used to always

1 distribute it out equally to all of the tribes
2 that would come there. That was our traditional
3 way of subsistence back in those days, but just
4 wanted to say something about the Columbia River
5 treaty as well, but thank you.

6 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you. Are there
7 others? We invite anyone who wants to make a
8 comment.

9 MS. BROWN: Again, as a reminder if
10 you're joining by phone to use *9 to raise your
11 hand and *6 to unmute. I want to make sure those
12 that are joining by phone have an opportunity to
13 make a comment if you would like.

14 MR. GARRIOTT: While we are waiting, I
15 want to also emphasize, you know, that
16 participating, you know, today was of course Madam
17 Secretary Haaland herself, you know, and she's
18 very passionate and adamant that we hold this
19 consultation and make sure that we're acting
20 directly with tribes, but that, you know, council
21 included, the Deputy Secretary Beaudreau and then
22 also participating in the beginning of the call

1 was Mayor Landrieu and the President. He answers
2 directly to the President on implementation of the
3 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. And that, you
4 know, he has emphasized the importance across the
5 entire federal government working with tribes,
6 hearing from tribal nations and so that again I
7 wanted to just emphasize that this is a big
8 priority not only for Interior, but for the entire
9 Administration.

10 We continue to invite others to
11 participate. Use the raised hand function. We
12 will give it a few more minutes.

13 MS. BROWN: I just note too that the
14 comment period, there is an open comments area that
15 is currently ongoing. The deadline for making
16 comments in February 4th and you can provide those
17 comments through the BIA comments area via email
18 in that consultation at BIA.Gov. I'll put it in
19 the chat, but again it goes on the phone. If you
20 would like to provide written comments, please
21 submit them by February 4th with a subject line
22 BIL Consultation Comments. And again the email

1 address is Consultation@BIA.Gov. Thank you.

2 MR. GARRIOTT: Additionally, you know,
3 in addition to these three consultations being
4 hosted by the Department of Interior, the White
5 House Council on Native American Affairs will be
6 hosting a session on Monday, January 31st from
7 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and the Bipartisan
8 Infrastructure Law will be a topic of discussion
9 and that will be an additional opportunity for
10 tribe, tribal leaders to participate and make
11 comment in that and of course the White House
12 Council works across the entire federal government
13 and not just Interior or BIA or IHS program, but
14 that will include the entirety of federal
15 government and that is another opportunity for
16 tribal leaders to receive information and to make
17 comments and to make contributions. And we're
18 going to host that information in the chat we just
19 did. So we're also looking forward to hearing
20 more from tribal leaders in that forum as well.

21 MS. BROWN: Just to clarify that the
22 deadline is February 4th for comments and I

1 apologize earlier, there was a typo in the chat
2 that had the 14th. It's February 4th for
3 comments. Sorry for the confusion.

4 MR. GARRIOTT: We will give it a few
5 more minutes. If there are no more comments, I
6 want to -- we can conclude this session, but
7 before we do, as by way of kind of summary, you
8 know, I kind of want to walk through some of the
9 major themes that we heard. One, we want to make
10 sure we've heard from tribes that we want to make
11 sure that we were the existing funding authority
12 such as 638 contract, a self- determination
13 contract and that generally tribes want to see
14 that the administration of the funding and the
15 awarding of the funding that it is -- that we
16 remove as many administrative barriers as possible
17 and to streamline application processes and
18 administration of programs.

19 There was a strong desire that we see
20 that, you know, special emphasis and care be
21 placed for some of the smaller tribes that may not
22 have as many resources to access some of this

1 funding and that when it comes to funding caps,
2 that that be taken into consideration. It was
3 also said that there should also be consideration
4 for each individual tribe's unique circumstances
5 and, you know, special consideration given that
6 each tribe operates live, their homelands are in a
7 unique eco system and that we need to be mindful
8 of all of the various tribal eco systems.

9 Along the same line, we heard that we
10 need to be mindful about kind of the collective
11 impact on all of these various kind of eco systems
12 and that, you know, a flood or a fire is not, you
13 know, doesn't happen in isolation and that there
14 was the example of a fire that damaged trees which
15 then increased flood risk and that a flood had an
16 impact on drainage and flooding and impacted fish
17 populations and so that these are cascading
18 effects from climate disaster and climate change.

19 At the same time, you know, very
20 related, the challenges and the infrastructure
21 challenges must be taken as a whole and that we
22 should also be thinking about the bundling of

1 projects and that we're thinking about, you know,
2 planning for roads, broadband infrastructure,
3 other infrastructure, that we should be able to
4 take a coordinated inter agency approach to that
5 work.

6 Also, I heard that we should also make
7 in addition to that, that we need to make sure
8 that we're providing strong technical assistance
9 and that we're talking to our other sister and
10 federal agencies in the Administration of these
11 programs. I see that Stephen has raised his hand,
12 Stephen.

13 MR. IVANOFF: Yes, I forgot to mention
14 my affiliation earlier. I'm the Chairman of the
15 (inaudible) Native Corporation. I serve on our
16 regional corporation and I work a regional
17 nonprofit as a transportation planner. I forgot
18 to mention earlier that many of our villages were
19 nomadic since the turn of the century and then
20 they were moved inland to higher ground in the
21 fall time before the storm and then to the coast
22 in the spring for the fishing activities.

1 My father was born in Shageluk. He was
2 born in those communities. They were a nomadic
3 people and they would go in and out with the
4 seasons to get away from the frost. And then the
5 BIA came in and built the schools in the flood
6 threatened area anchoring those villages in the
7 coast so the men are no longer nomadic and the
8 kids were forced to go to school.

9 For some of those villages, Shageluk,
10 Kualina, Shishmaref, and Nuntut now need to be
11 relocated because those sites that they were
12 anchored at by the placing them into the school
13 are threatening the whole community, not a portion
14 of the community, the whole community is
15 threatened. This is like the (inaudible) that
16 floods, have access to higher ground from the
17 roads and with the construction of their homes up
18 there, that eliminates the need for an evacuation
19 which is another story that could be told on
20 another day, but we really need to keep in mind
21 that these people could be wiped out in the next
22 storm.

1 There are five scenarios for a perfect
2 storm: The high tide of the day, the high tide of
3 the month, the wind, the wind direction, and the
4 duration of the storm. Any three of those five
5 could inundate a village. We haven't seen that
6 yet, but we have been fortunate. With climate
7 change happening, all the models can be thrown out
8 the window because things are changing so fast.

9 In the hillside, I forgot to mention
10 that we also have another chair facility that was
11 just built in the inadequate maintained road to
12 that facility needs to be placed on high priority
13 and improved not just for the safety of the
14 others, but safety of the community.

15 Again, I'd like to thank you for this
16 opportunity, appreciate it.

17 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you. All right, I
18 think that there are no more comments. I really
19 want to thank everyone for their participation
20 today. These sessions can be long and a lot of
21 information was shared today. We want to thank
22 all of the organizers who put this on today. We

1 especially want to thank Rachel Brown who has been
2 one of the hardest working and kind of at the
3 center of the storm for organizing the entire
4 event.

5 And we also want to thank Sarah
6 Greenberger who has, you know, helped to really
7 lead this overall effort for the Department as
8 well as, you know, the Department of Interior, BIL
9 coordinator Winnie Stachelberg and others who
10 participated in this.

11 Of course at all times the Assistant
12 Secretary Bryan Newland is always very keen on
13 participating in these sessions and hearing
14 directly from tribal leaders himself. His
15 schedule gets pretty busy and pretty packed and
16 then he also must respond to emergencies from time
17 to time. He has things that he has to -- urgent
18 matters and so in those instances when he's not
19 able to hear directly from tribal leaders part of
20 my job is to take everything that I've heard today
21 and report directly to him so that he has that
22 information and I always make sure to assure

1 everybody that, you know, when you speak and when
2 you pass information on that you're not yelling
3 into a void. This information is passed on. We
4 discuss it and talk about it and we try to
5 determine how we can best be responsible to the
6 needs and desires and wishes and recommendations
7 from tribal leaders.

8 So if there is nothing further, we can
9 conclude today's consultation session; also just
10 one last reminder that there are two other
11 consultation sessions scheduled. Those are
12 tomorrow and the next day and your participation
13 today does not preclude you from participating in
14 the other session. And that you can always
15 participate in multiple consultation sessions and
16 that comments are always welcome and will continue
17 to be received until February 4th. So with that I
18 would like to thank everyone again and we wish you
19 a good rest of the day and good rest of the week.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. IVANOFF: Thank you.

22 (Whereupon, at 5:11 p.m., the

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PROCEEDINGS were adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

I, Nate Riveness, notary public in and for the District of Columbia, do hereby certify that the forgoing PROCEEDING was duly recorded and thereafter reduced to print under my direction; that the witnesses were sworn to tell the truth under penalty of perjury; that said transcript is a true record of the testimony given by witnesses; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this proceeding was called; and, furthermore, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

(Signature and Seal on File)

Notary Public, in and for the District of Columbia

