

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell

**Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Business Meeting to consider S. 3381, S. 3773 & S. 3789
and Roundtable discussion on “Public Safety in Native Communities”**

Witnesses: Ms. Tracy Canard Goodluck, Senior Advisor, Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (U.S. Department of the Interior); Mr. Jason O’Neal, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Office of Justice Services (U.S. Department of the Interior); Mr. Robert E. Chapman, Acting Director, Community Oriented Policing Services (U.S. Department of Justice); The Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton, Council Delegate and Chairwoman of Law and Order Committee (Navajo Nation); Mr. Mark Patterson, Chair, Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (Department of the Attorney General); Mr. Michael B. Ford, Chief of Police (Reno-Sparks Indian Colony); Ms. Lucy Rain Simpson, Executive Director (National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center); Ms. A. Nikki Borchardt Campbell, Executive Director (National American Indian Court Judges Association); Mr. Alex Cleghorn, Senior Legal and Policy Director (Alaska Native Justice Center).

May 18th, 2022

[\[VIDEO\]](#) [\[AUDIO\]](#)

Senator Cantwell: Thank you Chairman Schatz, Vice Chair Murkowski, for holding this business meeting and thank you for putting S. Bill 3773, a bill to authorize leases up to 99 years for land held in the trust for the Confederated Tribes Chehalis reservation.

This will open the door to more economic opportunities for the Chehalis tribe. It will allow the Chehalis tribe to lease their trust lands for up to 99 years, which will help them attract businesses create jobs for tribal members in the surrounding community. The bill will provide the tribe with the necessary level of flexibility to help finance and encourage economic development projects.

The Chehalis tribe, or I believe any other tribes, should not be hindered because of the 1955 bill that limits tribal ability to lease their land. So I thank the chairman and the vice chairman for putting this on the agenda and I encourage my colleagues to support it.