

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 10, 2019

Dear American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Community Leaders:

We are writing to solicit your views on the impacts of climate change to your communities and begin a dialogue on potential solutions and adaptive responses. As the National Climate Assessment recently confirmed, climate change is having a disproportionate impact on your communities. As such, we would like to hear directly from you, leaders who are key voices for your communities, about how climate change threatens your traditional ways of life, economic opportunities, and overall wellbeing. It is well past time for Congress to take action in partnership with you and your communities to address the risks and impacts associated with climate change.

American Indians and Alaskan Natives maintain a government-to-government relationship with the United States cemented in treaties and reflected in federal law, and the United States recognizes a special political and trust relationship with the Native Hawaiian community. Any discussion on federal action regarding climate change must include your perspectives. Your voices, stories of current impacts, and ideas for solutions the federal government can take to address the dire impacts of climate change are critical. We welcome your recommendations for federal action that will help provide your communities with the tools necessary to address the harms associated with climate change.

To begin our discussion, we ask that you send us thoughts and comments by Friday, September 13, 2019. Below are some questions to prompt ideas.

1. What policies, regulations, and programs have proven particularly useful in assisting your communities in mitigating and responding to climate change impacts?
2. Are there policies or strategies that your communities are using to address climate change that could scale for implementation at the federal level, including traditional knowledge?
3. What actions or policies could federal agencies take within existing authorities to improve climate change mitigation and resilience in your communities?
4. What new policies would you recommend Congress consider to improve climate change resilience in your communities, reduce emissions of heat-trapping pollution, increase the development and availability of renewable resources, or capture or off-set emissions of heat-trapping pollution?

Your knowledge and experience on this issue is invaluable, and we look forward to receiving your input. Please send your thoughts and comments to Community_Leaders_Feedback@indian.senate.gov.

We thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions, you can contact Christine Blackburn at Christine_Blackburn@schatz.senate.gov or Joshua Mahan at Joshua_Mahan@indian.senate.gov.

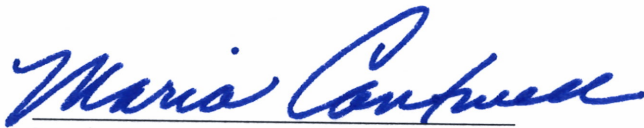
Sincerely,



Tom Udall, Vice Chair
Indian Affairs Committee



Brian Schatz, Chair
Special Committee on the Climate Crisis
Indian Affairs Committee



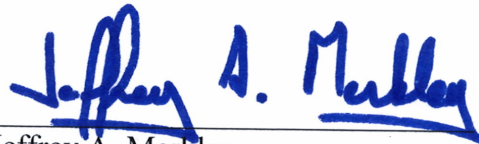
Maria Cantwell
Indian Affairs Committee



Sheldon Whitehouse
Special Committee on the Climate Crisis



Jon Tester
Indian Affairs Committee



Jeffrey A. Merkley
Special Committee on the Climate Crisis



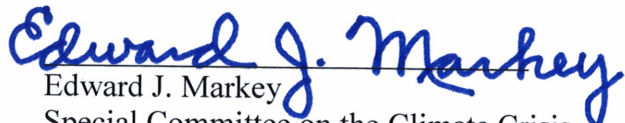
Michael F. Bennet
Special Committee on the Climate Crisis



Tammy Baldwin
Special Committee on the Climate Crisis



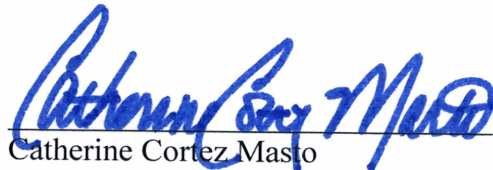
Martin Heinrich
Special Committee on the Climate Crisis



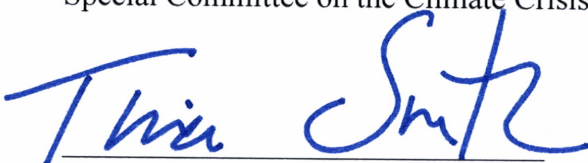
Edward J. Markey
Special Committee on the Climate Crisis



Tammy Duckworth
Special Committee on the Climate Crisis



Catherine Cortez Masto
Indian Affairs Committee
Special Committee on the Climate Crisis



Tina Smith
Indian Affairs Committee
Special Committee on the Climate Crisis