



City of Tacoma

Mayor Victoria Woodards

August 5, 2025

The Honorable Patty Murray
Russell Senate Office Bld.
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Hart Senate Office Bld.
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Emily Randall
1531 Longworth House Office
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell and Congresswoman Randall:

On behalf of the Tacoma City Council, we're writing to express our strong support for the proposed federal legislation to amend the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Settlement Act of 1989.

As a party to the original Settlement Agreement, Tacoma has shared a longstanding and meaningful relationship with the Puyallup Tribe. One grounded in mutual respect, partnership, and a shared commitment to the future of our region. This legislation is an important and timely step that honors that legacy.

The proposed amendment would allow the Puyallup Tribe to directly manage and invest the \$22 million Permanent Trust Fund established under the original Act. When the Act was first passed, federal law didn't yet provide a way for tribes to manage their own trust funds. That changed with the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994, and this legislation would simply bring the Settlement into alignment with those reforms.

The Puyallup Tribe has proven time and again its ability to lead with vision and care both for its members but for the broader community. From economic development to environmental stewardship to cultural investment, the Tribe has shown what responsible, forward-looking governance looks like. This amendment would enable the Tribe to continue that leadership by creating an endowment to support education, health, social services, and other community priorities.

While the original Trust Fund Board was established with good intentions, the realities of time, cost, and changing economic conditions have made it harder for the fund to fully deliver on its promise. The proposal before you offers a practical, modern solution. One that reflects the trust the Tribe has earned through decades of partnership and accountability.

We are proud to stand with the Puyallup Tribe in support of this legislation, and we're grateful for your continued leadership on issues that matter to Tribal Nations and the communities they serve.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to staying in close communication with your office on behalf of the people of Tacoma.

Yours in Service,

[Council Signature block to be added on adoption]