

Jay Supports Washington's Tribes

Throughout Jay Inslee's career in elective office, as Vice Chair of the Congressional Native American Caucus and as a ten year member of the Natural Resources committee, Jay has worked tirelessly to support the needs of tribes, stand up and speak out for Indian Country, respect tribal sovereignty, advance economic development opportunities, protect the environment, and improve access to better and self-governed health care.

Supports & Respects Tribal Sovereignty

Jay believes Native American communities know what is best for their people. That's why he has stood up for tribal sovereignty over the years and supports policies to enhance tribal self-determination and meaningful tribal consultation.

Supports Gaming Rights & Operations

Jay has worked hard to protect gaming rights for tribes because he recognizes the importance that such economic activity has on improving the lives of Tribal members. From building Boy's and Girl's clubs, providing educational opportunities for students, and improving health care for those who need it, Jay understands that it is important to have leaders willing to stand up against those who wish to eliminate this economic activity.

Supports Pacific Northwest Tribal Communities & Members

Throughout his career, Jay has worked with tribes across the state and understands the unique challenges and strengths of our 29 federally recognized tribes. From salmon, to forests, to the Puget Sound, Jay has come to rely on tribes for guidance and insight when legislating on a wide variety of issues. Jay is honored to have a relationship with tribes from across the state and to work to further enhance relationships between the state and tribes.

Cares Strongly About the Environment

Growing up on the shores of Puget Sound and around Mt. Rainier, from an early age Jay learned to respect and protect our sacred resources and environment. As a stalwart protector of the environment and co-founder of the Congressional Sustainable Environment and Energy Coalition, Jay works tirelessly to protect these resources.

Supports Tribal Businesses

Jay knows Native Americans face some of the highest unemployment rates in the country, estimated as high as fifty percent. That's why Jay has worked to help create economic opportunity for Native Americans.

Supports Increasing Access to Health Care & Funding for Indian Health Service

Jay respects treaty obligations to Indian people and has supported and worked hard to fund the Indian Health Service to provide health care to all Native people.

Helped Create Washington State's American Indian Scholarship Endowment

Jay supports programs to provide consistent support for education of Indian students. While in the state legislature, Jay co-sponsored and voted for Washington State's American Indian Scholarship Endowment.

Supports Tribal Safety

While most of the United States has witnessed falling crime rates for the past two decades, Indian reservations have been subject to crime rates that have doubled and tripled. Jay is dedicated to improving the partnerships between state, local, and federal law enforcement to improve safety in Indian Country. By working cooperatively and supporting tribal economic development, educating youth and giving communities the tools to oversee their own community, Jay believes we can make great strides in increasing safety.

Supports Recognizing the Contribution of Tribal Communities To American War Efforts

Jay honors and supports Native Veterans. From World War I to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, Indian people have served and died in percentages greater than their number. Jay believes that the Federal Government must honor its obligations to its Native veterans by providing adequate health care, job training and other support once they return home. Jay previously stated, "Our Native service men and women have put their lives on the line for us and we owe them respect commensurate with their sacrifice."

Supports Increased Funding for Native American programs

Jay recognizes and respects the federal government's responsibility to meet Native American treaty obligations. Historically, the federal government failed to meet those obligations and grossly underfunded Native American programs, leading to greater health, economic and education disparities. Since then, the federal government has come a long way in terms of funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Indian Health Services (IHS), as well as implementing programs that lead to greater self-determination, despite these strides funding in Indian Country continues to be a challenge.

For more than a decade, Jay has worked, with success, to right the federal government's past mismanagement by supporting appropriations packages to increase funding for BIA and IHS as well supporting many laws that put the tools in the hands of tribes to tackle the tough issues facing Indian Country.

Supports & Respects Tribal Sovereignty

Jay believes Native American communities know what is best for their people and supports policies to enhance tribal self-determination and meaningful tribal consultation. Improving self-determination programs is a cornerstone of his focus on Native American policy because they enable tribes to realize their own innate sovereign rights. Native American programs should derive from tribes in order to meet tribal goals of cultural survival, economic well being, and the health of the community.

- **Inslee Supports Department of the Interior Tribal Self-Governance Act.** In 2010, Inslee co-sponsored legislation to strengthen the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service self-determination programs. After policy failures of BIA and IHS, the federal government instituted self-determination programs. However, since their creation these programs are in need of improvement to enhance tribal programs and reduce duplicative reporting. H.R. 4347 passed the House in 2010 but didn't pass the Senate. Jay is a cosponsor on the legislation introduced this year. [History of H.R. 4347, 9/22/10]
- **Inslee Voted To Settle Class Action Lawsuit for Interior's Mismanagement of Indian accounts.** In 2010, with Inslee's support, Congress passed a settlement to the Cobell v. Salazar case regarding Interior's mismanagement of Indian land holdings. The settlement included \$1.4 billion to compensate plaintiffs for accounting mismanagement and \$2 billion for a voluntary buy-back program to help consolidate fractionated land. [H.R. 4783, [Vote #584](#), 11/30/10]
- **Inslee Supports "Carcieri Fix" Legislation.** The Supreme Court's literal interpretation of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 ignored congressional intent and leaves many tribes, including some in Washington in uncertainty. Inslee is a cosponsor of legislation to clarify that the Secretary of the Interior has authority to take land into trust for all federally recognized tribes. On December 7th, 2010, Inslee and colleagues send a letter to House leadership asking for Carcieri fix to be included in the final spending package of the year. On Dec 8, 2010, the House passed a spending bill that contained the legislation, with Inslee's support. The fix was not included in the final spending package. In the 112th Inslee is once again a cosponsor of legislation to Carcieri fix the decision. [History of 2009 H.R. 3742, 10/8/09; Inslee letter to Speaker Pelosi & Leader Boehner]
- **Inslee Works to Protect "477" Self-Determination Programs.** The self-determination program known as "477" has worked successfully, allowing qualified tribes to run efficient and quality services in their own communities. However, recent agency action on the part of IHS has stymied the program, by requiring unnecessary bureaucratic red tape and duplicative reporting. Inslee successfully included language in the FY2012 Interior Appropriations bills to clarify agencies should not require duplicative reporting for tribes participating in these programs. The legislation is expected to soon pass the House. [Letter to Chairman Simpson, 6/14/11]
- **Inslee Co-Sponsored Tribal Self-Governance Amendments of 2000 to Allow Tribes To Provide Further Self-Governance Within Indian Health Service.** Inslee co-sponsored the Tribal Self-Governance Amendments of 2000, which amended "the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish the Tribal Self-Governance Program within the Indian Health Service of HHS to provide for further self-governance by Indian tribes. Sets forth program requirements and related provisions."

President Clinton signed the bill into law on August 18, 2000. [History of H.R. 1167, [8/18/00](#)]

- **Inslee “Fired First Shot” At Federal Government’s Mishandling Of Indian Trust Fund Accounts.** Indian Country Today reported that during the 58th Annual National Congress of American Indian meeting “The hot-button topic became the mishandling of American Indian trust accounts, the reorganization of the BIA without proper consultation, which includes a second Interior Department office dealing with trust reform.” Inslee “fired the first shot of the session at the federal government’s mishandling of the trust fund accounts and the Bush administration’s lack of consultation.” [Indian Country Today, 11/30/01]

Supports Gaming Rights & Operations

Jay believes Native American tribes need tools to rebuild communities through self-reliance and has fought to protect those rights. Disparities facing Indian Country are great and he has seen firsthand the positive impact gaming can have for tribes. He protects this sovereign right because tribes must have tools to develop their economy and bring employment and critical programs to their communities. Jay has experienced backlash of anti-gaming fervor in the past and stands strong in his commitment to protect this right.

- **Inslee’s Offered Amendment To Squash Rep. Pombo’s Restricting Indian Gaming to Homelands of Tribes Act That Would Have Block Tribes From Off-Reservation Gaming.** In 2006, Inslee offered an amendment to Rep. Pombo’s Restricting Indian Gaming to Homelands of Tribes, H.R. 4893, that would have blocked tribes from off-reservation gaming. Inslee’s amendment would have allowed tribes to appeal to the Secretary of Interior in the event that state government was unwilling to negotiate in good faith on applications for Class III gaming. Overall, the Pombo bill was not advanced by the Senate. [History of H.R. 4893, 9/13/06]
- **Inslee Opposed Republican-Led Effort To Block Tribes From Off-Reservation Gaming.** Inslee urged other Members of Congress by circulating a Dear Colleague to oppose Republican member Rep. Richard Pombo’s Restricting Indian Gaming to Homelands of Tribes Act, H.R. 4893. [H.R. 4893, Dear Colleague, 9/13/06]
- **Inslee Opposed Republican’s Bill To Restrict Off-Reservation Gaming Because It Eroded Tribal Sovereignty.** During a speech on the House floor opposing the Republican bill to restrict off-reservation gaming, Inslee said, “Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill. I think it is important to note that before we do violence to the existing situation here that there has been substantial success. In the existing relationships, we have had only three essential tribes, all of which have been done with largely local jurisdictions’ approval. To do significant changes to upset that balance would erode, and I do believe this bill as currently written does erode, to a degree, tribal sovereignty in this regard. For that reason, I don’t believe it is necessary at this time, and there can be and should be improvements.” [Inslee, House Floor Speech, 9/13/06]
- **Inslee Favored Giving Tribes More Control Over Their Gaming Operations.** The Seattle Times reported that “Inslee, a former state legislator, said he favors giving tribes more control over their gaming operations, albeit with close state supervision.” [Seattle Times, 5/26/96]
- **Inslee Suggested That State Legislators Upheld Double Standard On Gambling As State Actively Promoted Its Lottery System To Bolster Its Own Budget.** During a democratic

gubernatorial debate in May 1996, Inslee “suggested that legislators have upheld a double standard on gambling - the state, after all, runs and actively promotes a lottery system to bolster its own budget.” [Seattle Times, 5/26/96]

Supports Pacific Northwest Tribal Communities & Members

Throughout his career, Jay worked with tribes across the state and understands the unique challenges and strengths of our 29 federally recognized tribes. Growing up in the state, Jay knows the importance of our heritage and natural resources to the Northwest culture. From salmon, to forests, to Puget Sound, and to advancing legislation on behalf of Washington tribes, Jay has come to rely on tribes for guidance and insight when legislating on a wide variety of issues. Jay is honored to have a relationship with tribes from across the state and to work to further enhance relationships between the state and tribes.

- **Jay Urged Interior Secretary Salazar To Support Tracie Stevens, from Tulalip Tribes of Washington, As Chairwoman of the National Indian Gaming Commission.** Inslee supported Tracie Stevens as the Chairwoman of the Commission because of her strong leadership in the state. Stevens is first Native American woman to lead NIGC, which regulates gaming in Indian Country. “gaming activities on Indian lands for the purpose of shielding Indian tribes from organized crime and other corrupting influences; to ensure that Indian tribes are the primary beneficiaries of gaming revenue; and to assure that gaming is conducted fairly and honestly by both operators and players.” [Tracie Stevens bio, National Indian Gaming Commission, accessed [6/17/11](#); Mission of NIGC, accessed [6/17/11](#)]
- **Inslee Secured \$600,000 For Suquamish Tribe’s Pedestrian Safety Improvements.** Inslee helped secure \$600,000 in an appropriation for the Suquamish Tribe to make pedestrian safety improvements at Suquamish Way and Division Streets for FY 2010. [Inslee, FY 2010 Earmark Requests, OpenSecrets.org, accessed 6/17/11]
- **Inslee Introduced Spokane Tribe of the Indians of the Spokane Reservation Grand Coulee Dam Equitable Compensation Settlement Act To Require Payments For Use Of Tribal Lands For General Of Power At Grand Coulee Dam.** In 2008, Inslee introduced the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation Grand Coulee Dam Equitable Compensation Settlement Act, (H.R. 6547). The bill would have created a settlement account in the Treasury and required the payment of compensation to the Spokane Business Council for the use of tribal lands for the generation of hydropower from the Grand Coulee Dam, and required the Bonneville Power Administration to make specified payments to the Spokane Tribe. [History of H.R. 6547, 7/17/08]
- **Inslee Worked Out Bipartisan Agreement To Pass Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation Grand Coulee Dam Settlement Act To Settle Colville Tribe’s Claim Of U.S. Use Of Their Lands By Grand Coulee Dam.** In 1994, Inslee helped work out a bipartisan agreement between all of the interests that were involved to pass the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Grand Coulee Dam Settlement Act (H.R. 4757), a bill to settle the Colville Tribes’ claim against the United States for the use of their lands by the Grand Coulee Dam. The law provided for a one-time payment from Justice Department settlement funds of \$53 million, along with annual payments of about \$15 million to be made by the Bonneville Power Administration for the life of the Grand Coulee facility. The bill became law. [History of H.R. 4757, 11/2/94]

- **Inslee Introduced Yakima Tribal Council Treaty Conformity To Accept Redesignation To “Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation.** In 1994, Inslee sponsored the “Yakima Tribal Council Treaty Conformity.” The bill, H.R. 4992, was “to accept redesignation by the Yakama Tribal Council of the name Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation to the ‘Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation’ to conform to wording of the Treaty with the Yakamas.” [History of H.R. 4992, 8/18/94]
- **Inslee Sponsored Yakima River Water Conservation Enhancement Bill, Which Provided \$150 Million To Improved Yakima River Water Conservation With Better Irrigation Systems.** According to Seattle Post-Intelligencer, “President Clinton yesterday signed a bill for a project to improve Yakima River water conservation with better irrigation systems. The \$150 million enhancement bill has been in the works since 1980. The final version was sponsored by U.S. Rep. Jay Inslee, D-Wash.” [Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 11/1/94]
- **Inslee Co-Sponsored & Strongly Support Allowing Puyallup To Move Casino.** In 2004, Inslee co-sponsored H.R. 4934 which would have provided Puyallup Tribe of Indians to place land within the Puyallup Tribal reservation, allowing Tribal patrons improved access to the Casino. The move also allowed the Port of Tacoma to expand the Evergreen Terminal and allow the Puyallup and Port of Tacoma to form a new partnership, marketing new 250-acre terminal facility benefiting both the Puyallup and the Port of Tacoma. To show his strong support, Inslee signed onto a letter to Rep. Nick Rahall, then-Resources Committee Ranking member, in support of the Puyallup. [History of H.R. 4934 and letter to Rep. Nick Rahall, 9/10/04]
- **Inslee Co-Sponsored Pacific Northwest Feasibility Studies Act.** In 2002, Inslee co-sponsored the Pacific Northwest Feasibility Studies Act which authorized water feasibility studies for Tulalip, Lower Elwha, and Makah tribes to improve water supplies and distribution on tribes’ lands. President Bush signed the bill into law on February 12, 2002. [History of H.R. 1937, 9/10/01]
- **Inslee Pushed Federal Government To Address Muckleshoot Indian Tribe’s Tribal School’s Concerns & Enrollment Numbers.** In 2003 and in 2006, Inslee urged the Administration to address the concerns of the Muckleshoot Tribe’s replacement school application and its projected enrollment numbers of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe’s Tribal School [Inslee, letters to Administration, 12/5/03 & 6/20/06]
- **Inslee Supported Native American Coast Salish Peoples First Ever Art Exhibition.** In a letter to the National Humanities Chairman, Inslee supported Seattle Art Museum’s grant application to fund the first ever major exhibition of the art and culture of the Native American Coast Salish peoples [Letter to National Humanities Chairman Cole, 2/1/08]
- **Inslee Supported Recovery Funds For Washington Tribes:**
 - **Washington State Tribes received over \$50 Million between January & March 2010**
 - **Created Narcotics Detective position in Suquamish Police Department**
 - **Created New Energy Efficiency Plan For port Gamble S’Klallam Tribal Facilities**
 - **Colville Confederate Tribes Granted \$522,000 in Interior Department Grants for Biomass Removal of Trees**
 - **Lower Elwha Was Granted \$1 Million for Wastewater Construction**
 - **Skokomish Was Granted \$27,000 for Road Repairs**
 - **Shoalwater Bay Granted \$50,000 for reintroducing plant series on tribal land**

- **Nooksack Granted Almost \$150,000 for Road and Bridge Construction**

Cares Strongly About the Environment

Growing up on the shores of Puget Sound and around Mt. Rainier, from an early age, Jay learned to protect our sacred resources and environment. Jay believes clean lakes and rivers, diverse habitat, clean air, and healthy land are important for the state's economy, culture, and people. As a stalwart protector of the environment and co-founder of the Congressional Sustainable Environment and Energy Coalition, Inslee works tirelessly to protect these resources.

- **Jay Introduced Roadless Area Conservation Act to Protect 58.5 Million Acres Of National Forests.** The Roadless Area Conservation act would reinstate the Clinton Roadless rule and protect the nation's few remaining roadless forests from development. Beginning in 2002, Inslee has introduced this cornerstone environmental legislation each Congress, including during the Bush Administration years when the Administration tried to repeal roadless protection. His leadership in Congress helped maintain the forests under protection. [H.R. 3693, 10/1/09; H.R. 2516, 7/23/07; H.R. 3563, 8/9/05; H.R. 2369, 6/5/03; H.R. 4865, 6/11/02]
- **Jay Fights To Restore Puget Sound:** Inslee fights for Puget Sound Ecosystem restoration projects. From authorizing restoration programs to appropriations, each Congress, Inslee keeps federal attention on Puget Sound restoration. [Seattle Times, 9/5/00]
- **Jay Aggressively Advocates Pursuing Every Avenue To Restore Salmon Runs.** Inslee pursues every avenue to restore salmon runs, to prevent timber harvesting in Roadless Areas & wanted federal government to financially assist local communities complying with Endangered Species Act. [Seattle Times, 9/5/00]
- **Jay Supported Removing Elwha River Dam.** Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported that as Inslee took office for the first time in the First Congressional District in January 1999, "Inslee said he also would push for the removal of the dams on the Olympic Peninsula's Elwha River in an effort to restore salmon runs." [Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 1/7/99]
- **Inslee Voted to Protect Northwest Shellfish.** In Olympia, Inslee fought for watershed protection districts in counties with tidelands across the Sound, helping to support shellfish growth. In Congress, Inslee spearheads efforts to reduce ocean acidification, which is already showing signs of hurting the region's shellfish. According to the Olympian, "counties moved closer Friday to getting a new weapon to protect Puget Sound shellfish—the power to tax residents to combat shellfish-killing pollution. The House, by a vote of 93-0," passed "a measure that would permit formation of 'watershed protection districts' in counties with tidelands largely around Puget Sound. Each district would be governed by local county council or commission." Inslee voted for the Shellfish Protection Act. [Olympian, 2/15/92; ESHB 2363, #33-013, 2/14/92]

Supports Tribal Businesses

Jay knows Native Americans face some of the highest unemployment rates in the country, estimated as high as fifty percent. Without gainful employment and economic opportunity, tribes cannot care for the community, easily teach future generations or cultural practices and history that are essential to

maintaining the health of tribes. By supporting well designed small business programs and other incentives to Native-owned businesses, we can boost economic development in a variety of industries. Many tribes have the land and skills to build successful businesses and it is the job of the government to support those efforts.

- **Inslee Voted To Allow Federal Law Enforcement Officials To Investigate Counterfeit American Indian Arts & Crafts.** In 2010, Inslee voted in favor of legislation to allow federal law enforcement offices to investigate and prosecute counterfeit Indian arts and crafts, to protect authentic products and small business owners . [H.R. 725, [Vote #455](#), 7/21/10; CQ Floor Votes, House Roll Call Vote 455, 7/21/10]
- **Inslee supports Small Business R&D for Native-Owned Businesses:** In 2009, Inslee voted for legislation to give preference to minority businesses. Enhancing the program encourages small business development and give greater tools to businesses owned by service-disabled veterans, women or minorities, or that are located in rural areas. H.R. 2965, [Vote #486](#), 7/8/09; Congressional Quarterly Today, 7/8/09; CQ Floor Votes, House Roll Call Vote 486, 7/8/09]
- **Increasing Small Business Contracting for Minorities & Women:** Inslee supported legislation to increase federal government’s small-business procurement goal to 30 percent from 23 percent under current law as well as the goal for procurement for minority and women-owned businesses to 8 percent from 5 percent. [HR 1873, [Vote #323](#), 5/10/07; Congressional Quarterly]
- **Inslee supports Native-owned small business contracting.** In 2010, as the Department of Defense considered changing a regulation that could create new regulatory burdens on Native-owned firms, Inslee sent the Defense Secretary a letter calling for formal consultations with Native American tribes. Native American firms traditionally are eligible to receive sole-source contracts over \$20 million. However as the Department considered changes to contracting requirements, they had not adequately considered impact on Native-owned businesses. [Inslee letter to Defense Secretary Gates, 4/27/10]

Supports Increasing Access to Health Care & Funding for Indian Health Service

Jay respects treaty obligations to Indian people and believes the federal government should provide health care to all Native people. The Indian Health Service is chronically underfunded to meet the demands and Inslee believes increased funding is essential. Native Americans face health care disparities unlike any other population and Jay supports self-determination programs to give tribes the ability to care for themselves.

- **Inslee Supported Making Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) Permanent.** He urged House leadership to include IHCIA in health reform and in 2010, voted to support IHCIA, bringing an improved comprehensive health care delivery system to 1.9 million of the 3.3 Native Americans. The law includes: “which made permanent the Indian Health Care Improvement Act... The IHS provides a comprehensive health service delivery system for approximately 1.9 million of the nation’s estimated 3.3 million American Indians and Alaska Natives.” [History of H.R. 3590, 3/21/10; Indian Health Care Improvement Act, HHS.gov, [3/26/10](#)]
 - On January 10, 2010, Inslee signed a letter to House leadership urging the inclusion of IHCIA in the final health reform package.

- Enhancement of the authorities of the IHS Director, including the responsibility to facilitate advocacy and promote consultation on matters relating to Indian health within the Department of Health and Human Services.
 - Provides authorization for hospice, assisted living, long-term, and home- and community-based care.
 - Extends the ability to recover costs from third parties to tribally operated facilities.
 - Updates current law regarding collection of reimbursements from Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program) by Indian health facilities.
 - Allows tribes and tribal organizations to purchase health benefits coverage for IHS beneficiaries.
 - Authorizes IHS to enter into arrangements with the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense to share medical facilities and services.
 - Allows a tribe or tribal organization carrying out a program under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act and an urban Indian organization carrying out a program under Title V of IHCA to purchase coverage for its employees from the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.
 - Authorizes the establishment of a Community Health Representative program for urban Indian organizations to train and employ Indians to provide health care services.
 - Directs the IHS to establish comprehensive behavioral health, prevention, and treatment programs for Indians. [Indian Health Care Improvement Act, HHS.gov, [3/26/10](#)]
- **Inslee Co-Sponsored Native American Breast & Cervical Cancer Treatment Technical Amendment Act.** In 2001, Inslee cosponsored the Native American Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Technical Amendment Act which amended Medicaid statute to ensure that Indian women with breast or cervical cancer were included in optional Medicaid eligibility category of breast or cervical cancer patients added by the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act of 2000. This bill became law. [History of H.R. 1383 and S. 1741, 12/20/01]
- **Additional IHS funding is needed. That is why Insee:**
- Supported \$4 billion For Indian Health Services Funding in FY10 appropriations, a 13% increase in funding. [FY 2010 Interior Appropriations, 6/26/09]
 - Urged then-Chairman Dicks to Preserve Funding For Urban Indian Health Program in FY09 appropriations [3/18/08]
 - Requested Continued Funding For Diabetes Treatment & Prevention Programs For American Indians & Alaska Natives in FY08. [4/27/07]
 - Supported Preserving and increasing funding for Indian Health Service in FY08. [3/29/07]
 - Supported Additional \$204 Million For Indian Health Service In FY 2008 Budget [6/27/07]
 - Urged Fellow Members of Congress To Hurry Up & Reauthorize Indian Health Program [9/6/06]
 - Supported Additional Funding for Native American Aging Programs [11/17/06]

Helped Create Washington State’s American Indian Scholarship Endowment

Jay supports programs to provide consistent support for education of Indian students. For too long the federal government failed to meet its responsibility for education of Native American students. Jay believes tribes should have the opportunity to have schools and that public schools should provide a

culturally appropriate education to help all of our Native children succeed.

- **Inslee Co-Sponsored & Helped Pass Washington State’s American Indian Scholarship Endowment.** In 1990, Inslee co-sponsored H.B. 2831, the American Indian Endowed Scholarship Program. The program was to be administered by Higher Education Coordinating Board to award scholarships to eligible participants. “The board will name the scholarships in honor of American Indians from Washington who were role models. American Indians who are needy resident students, and who are enrolled full time at a public or accredited independent college or university are eligible to participate. Participants must be willing to use their education to benefit other American Indians. The board may award scholarships from funds received from any source, including appropriated funds, private donations, or from earnings on the American Indian Scholarship Endowment fund. An undergraduate student will receive a scholarship that does not exceed the student’s demonstrated financial need.” The bill became law. [History of 1990 H.B. 2831]
- **Washington State American Indian Endowment Scholarship Program Awarded Scholarships From \$500 to \$2,000 For Approximately 15 Students A Year.** According to Washington State’s Higher Education Coordinating Board, the American Indian Endowment Scholarship Program “scholarship awards range from about \$500 to \$2,000. Approximately 15 students are selected each year to receive the awards. These students are eligible to receive their college scholarships for up to five years.” [Higher Education Coordinating Board, accessed 6/17/11]

Supports Tribal Safety

While most of the United States has witnessed falling crime rates for the past two decades, Indian reservations have been subject to crime rates that have doubled and tripled. Jay believes this is unacceptable and is dedicated to improving the partnerships between state, local, and federal law enforcement to improve safety in Indian Country. Unfortunately, historically we have not succeeded at appropriately respecting tribal sovereignty and keeping both Indians and non-Natives safe. By working cooperatively and supporting tribal economic development,, educating youth and giving communities the tools to oversee their own community, Jay believes we can make great strides in increasing safety.

- **Inslee Supported the Tribal Law and Order Act To Increase Public Safety Appropriations For Native American Justice Programs.** The Tribal Law & Order Act, H.R. 724 passed into law with Inslee’s support, bringing increased appropriations for public safety and Native American justice programs [H.R. 724, #455, 7/21/10]
- **Inslee Fought For Funding For Tribal Sex Offender Registry In 2007 Justice Appropriations.** Inslee offered and got passed a bipartisan amendment to the Violence Against Women—Violence Against Women Prevention & Prosecution Programs to fund a tribal sex offender registry and a study on violence against Native women. The passed amendment sought \$2 million in funding. [History of H.AMDT.664 to H.R. 3093, Vote#730, 7/25/07]
- **Inslee Support 2005 Violence Against Women & Department Of Justice Reauthorization Act That Increased Funding For Criminal Justice & Domestic Violence & Child Abuse Programs For Indian Tribal Governments.** Inslee voted for the 2005 Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization that increased grants to Indian tribal governments for

criminal justice programs and for combating and dealing with domestic violence and child abuse. President Bush signed the bill into law on January 6, 2006. Senator Hatch's office stated that "The re-authorization will continue...commitment to law enforcement and victim service organizations. In addition, it expands resources to vulnerable rural and Native American communities and provides new protections for the elderly and young children exposed to abuse." [History of HR 3402, [Vote #501](#), 9/28/05; Press Release, Office of Senator Orrin Hatch, 1/6/06]

- **Inslee Introduced Community Protection Against Wildfire Act.** In 2002, Inslee introduced the Community Protection Against Wildfire Act which directed the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to States and Indian tribes for promoting optimal firefighting efficiency and expanding outreach and education programs. [History of H.R. 5358, 9/10/02]
- **Inslee Supported \$12.6 Million In Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grants To Washington Tribes.** According to the U.S. Department of Justice, COPS Tribal Resources Grant Program awarded 27 grants to 16 tribal governments across WA, totaling \$12,610,651 for Justice Corrections and Substance Abuse programs." [Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation Awards List, U.S. Department of Justice, [9/15/10](#)]
 - Inslee Supported COPS Tribal Meth Grants: Kalispel Tribe of Indians: \$177,401; La Push Police Department, Quileute Public Safety: \$133,845; Lummi Indian Business Council: \$175,539

Supports Recognizing the Contribution of Tribal Communities To American War Efforts

Jay honors and supports Native Veterans. Jay recognizes the disproportionate contribution Native men and women have made to the protection of the United States. From World War I to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, Indian people have served and died in percentages greater than their number. Jay believes that the Federal Government must honor its obligations to its Native veterans by providing adequate health care, job training and other support once they return home. "Our Native service men and women have put their lives on the line for us and we owe them respect commensurate with their sacrifice," stated Jay.

- **Inslee Supported Increasing Access to Housing for Native American Veterans.** In the 110th Congress, Jay supported the Indian Veterans Housing Opportunity Act of 2010. This legislation allows Native American veterans with service-related disabilities or for families of those killed in service to have greater access to housing. Prior to the passage of this bill, veterans disability and survivor benefits were counted as income, which is inconsistent with other federal laws. The Indian Veterans Housing Act, rights this wrong, allowing more Native American veterans to have access to house, if needed. [H.R. 3553, 4/20/10]
- **Inslee Supported National Guard Employment Enhancement Project.** In a letter to the Secretary of the Army, to help service members, including Native Americans, who have recently returned from active duty, Inslee asked the Secretary to fully fund the National Guard Employment Enhancement Project (NGEEP). [Inslee letter to Secretary of the Army, 3/18/11]
- **Inslee Voted to Clarify Rules So DoD Would Not Unnecessarily Withhold Native American Taxes for States.** On May 7, 2003, Inslee voted for the Service members Civil Relief Act to

clarify that DoD should not unnecessarily withhold Native American taxes for states. Members of the military residing on Indian reservations should not be subject to state taxes. Unfortunately, the Department of Defense (DoD) has withheld funding over the years. [H.R. 100, 5/7/03]

- **Inslee Worked to Increased Veterans Affairs Discretionary Funding By 60 Percent Between 2007 – 2010.** Between 2007 and 2010, when the Democrats controlled the Majority in Congress, Jay worked with colleague to increase VA discretionary funding by 60 percent. The 2010 VA budget was a 17 percent over 2009, the largest increase in over 30 years, adding \$23 billion for Veterans health care and services. In addition to the funding increases that benefit all veterans, several Native American programs were also well-funded including the VA Native American home loan program, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder treatment programs on reservations, and the minority veterans program. [H.R. 3082, [Vote #529](#), 7/10/09; CQ Floor Votes, House Roll Call Vote 529, 7/10/09; SCR 21, [Vote #377](#), 5/17/07; House Budget Committee, Overview of FY2008 Budget Conference Agreement, 5/16/07]
- **Inslee Co-Sponsored 2008 Bill To Recognize Service By Native American Tribes During World War I & World War II As “Code Talkers.”** In 2008, Inslee co-sponsored and helped become law the Code talkers Recognition Act of 2008. The bill arranged “for the award of gold medals (to be maintained by the Smithsonian Institution) to recognize the service of Native American code talkers during World War I and World War II. Defines ‘code talker’ as a Native American who served in the Armed Forces during a foreign conflict and who transmitted secret coded messages for tactical military operations during World War I and World War II using native tribal language.” [History of H.R. 4462, 10/15/08]
- *Jay co-sponsored this bill to recognize the grandfather of Ruth Frazier McMillian, the daughter of Tobias Frazier, a Choctaw Code Talker who risked his life to serve in the 36th Division of the American Expeditionary Forces, who was wounded in battle and received a Purple Heart.*
- **Inslee Co-Sponsored Bill Authorizing Design, Construction & Maintenance Of National Native American Veterans’ Memorial At National Museum Of American Indian.** In 1994, Inslee co-sponsored the “the Native American Veterans’ Memorial Establishment Act of 1994. According to the Oregonian, H.R. 2135 authorized “the establishment of a memorial in Washington to honor American Indian veterans. The Native American Veterans’ Memorial would be created by the National Museum of the American Indian, a new Smithsonian Institution Museum that is due to open in Washington in 2001 on the Mall, across from the National Air and Space Museum.” President Clinton signed it into law on October 18, 1994. [History of H.R. 2135; Oregonian, 10/4/94; Presidential Papers, 10/18/94]

Supports Increased Funding for Native American programs

Jay recognizes and respects the federal government's responsibility to meet Native American treaty obligations. Historically, the federally government failed to meet those obligations and grossly underfunded Native American programs, leading to greater health, economic and education disparities. Since then, the federal government has come a long way in terms of funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Indian Health Services (IHS), as well as implementing programs that lead to greater self-determination, despite these strides funding in Indian Country continues to be a challenge. For more than a decade, Jay has worked, with success, to right the federal government's past mismanagement by supporting appropriations packages to increase funding for BIA and IHS as well supporting many laws

that put the tools in the hands of tribes to tackle the tough issues facing Indian Country.

- **In ARRA, Inslee Supported \$500 Million For BIA, \$5 Million For Indian Food Programs & \$225 Million For Law Enforcement Assistance to Indian Tribes.** In 2009, Inslee supported the American Investment and Recovery Act (known as the Stimulus package) and supported increased funding for Indian Country, including \$500 million for IHS, \$500 million for BIA, \$10 million Indian guaranteed loan program, \$5 million for Indian food programs, \$225 million to state and local law enforcement assistance to Indian tribes, and additional funding for roads, schools, and detention centers. It's estimated that the legislation led to \$3 billion in increased funding for Native Americans. In 2008, Inslee sent a letter requesting funding for important programs in the stimulus, including BIA. [Citation]
- **Inslee Voted for 10% Increase in BIA Funding.** On October 29, 2009, Inslee voted for the FY2010 Interior Appropriations which included a 10% increase in BIA funding. [H.R. 2996, [Vote #826](#), 10/29/09; CQ Floor Votes, House Roll Call Vote 826, 10/29/09]
- With Inslee's support, the Indian Health Service has received increasing appropriations since 2006 when the Democrats took over the House. Additional IHS funding is needed. That is why Inslee:
 - Supported \$4 billion For Indian Health Services Funding in FY10 appropriations, a 13% increase in funding. [FY 2010 Interior Appropriations, 6/26/09]
 - Urged then-Chairman Dicks to Preserve Funding For Urban Indian Health Program in FY09 appropriations [3/18/08]
 - Requested Continued Funding For Diabetes Treatment & Prevention Programs For American Indians & Alaska Natives in FY08. [4/27/07]
 - Supported Preserving and increasing funding for Indian Health Service in FY08. [3/29/07]
 - Supported Additional \$204 Million For Indian Health Service In FY 2008 Budget [6/27/07]
 - Urged Fellow Members of Congress To Hurry Up & Reauthorize Indian Health Program [9/6/06]
 - Supported Additional Funding for Native American Aging Programs [11/17/06]
- **Inslee Co-Sponsored Indian Health Care Improvement Act To Increase Funding For Indian Health Care.** In 2009& 2010, Inslee cosponsored the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and repeatedly reached out to leadership to ensure the legislation was included in the health reform bill. Not only did does permanent reauthorization increase funding to key Indian health care, it also outlines clear goals to address health disparities in Indian Country. [History H.R. 2708, 6/4/09; History of H.R. 4872 [Vote #194](#), 3/25/10]
- **Inslee Worked With Rep. Norm Dicks To Secure Funding For Native American Programs.** In 2011, Inslee voted for the FY2011 Continuing Resolution, which included more than \$38 billion from the budget. Despite deep cuts across the federal government, IHS received a small increase (.6%)in funding from FY2010. Inslee works closely with Chairman Simpson and Ranking member Dicks, who all agree on the importance of adequately funding Native American programs. [History of H.R. 1, [Vote#147](#), 2/19/11]