



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

September 28, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin,

We ask that you bring your attention to an urgent matter regarding the remaining money dedicated to Indian Country in the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). Thank you for your attention to this important issue and your dedication and interests to Indian Country through the Coronavirus pandemic.

As you may know, on Friday, September 25, 2020, a three judge panel of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the decision of the lower court, and stated that Alaska Native Corporations (ANC) are not eligible for a share of the \$8 billion dedicated to tribal governments in the CARES Act. According to the August 2020 Treasury Statement of Accounts, a total of \$534 million has been held back by the treasury have been yet to be disbursed to the tribes. We understand this money was set aside and waiting to be released for when the ANC court decision was made.

We understand the debate on whether ANC's are eligible for CRF money has been controversial and contested, however our ask is not in reference to that discussion. We are concerned for over a half of a billion dollars that Congress dedicated to Indian Country has yet been released and is set to expire in only two short days. There is still the potential for this issue to stay in court through the appeals process, and possibly make its way to the Supreme Court. We request that this money does not return and be absorbed by the Treasury and wait for the funds to be released until this issue makes its way through the entire court process and receive a final court decision.

Again, we thank you for your timely consideration of our request and your prompt attention to this matter. If you should have any questions, contact Josh Jackson ([joshua.jackson@mail.house.gov](mailto:joshua.jackson@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Cole's office or Heidi Todacheene ([Heidi.todacheene@mail.house.gov](mailto:Heidi.todacheene@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Haaland's office.

Sincerely,

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Tom Cole, Co-Chair  
Congressional Native American Caucus

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Deb Haaland, Co-Chair  
Congressional Native American Caucus