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December 20th, 2023

Darryl LaCounte
Director of Bureau of Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director LaCounte,

I am pleased today to write in strong support of the Hoh Indian Tribe's ("Hoh" or "Tribe") three submitted applications to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Branch of Tribal Climate Resilience (TCR) Annual Awards Program. The support that TCR's Annual Awards Program provides for both planning and implementation projects involving climate adaptation planning, community-led relocation, managed retreat (i.e. partial relocation), protect-in-place efforts, and ocean and coastal management make the Hoh Tribe a prime candidate for this funding opportunity. BIA's TCR program would help empower the Hoh community to address critical concerns at the intersection of climate change impacts, geographical isolation, and limited infrastructure connectivity and the Tribe has submitted three TCR applications for consideration.

First, the Tribe is committed to addressing these multifaceted challenges by hiring a Relocation, Managed Retreat, or Protect-in-Place (RMP) Coordinator, who will lead the Tribe in developing comprehensive community Resilience Management Plans that protect critical facilities, engage the community, and ensure sustainable growth. Second, the Tribe is seeking assistance with planning and implementation measures to assist its community's critical relocation efforts. The Tribe would utilize assistance in planning for relocation by developing a land-use master plan to include all facets of Hoh Tribal life including housing, health, economy, culture, and governance. Finally, assistance in implementation would help the Tribe with the construction of homes and residences for Tribal citizens and their families living in the Lower Hoh Village. The Tribe is located within a 100-year flood plain and tsunami zone and Tribal homes, critical facilities, and infrastructure are perpetually at risk due to recurring floods and rising sea levels. The geographic isolation of the Hoh Indian Reservation compounds challenges in accessing essential services and emergency responses and relocation is necessary. Participation in BIA's TCR program would help the Tribe in its efforts to rebuild parts of its community through the hiring of an RMP Coordinator, planning, and implementation measures, which will help improve the overall quality of life for members of the Hoh Tribe.

The TCR program helps support Tribal communities in their efforts to build climate resiliency and I firmly support the Hoh Tribe's exercising of self-determination to protect its community. It is for these reasons that I support the Hoh Indian Tribe's three applications to the BIA TCR's Annual Awards Program, and I urge your fair and full consideration of their proposals. Should you have any questions, please contact Emma Abraham in my Tacoma district office at Emma.Abraham@mail.house.gov or 253-272-3515.

Sincerely,

Derek Kilmer



Member of Congress