



Policy & Advocacy Office
122 C Street NW, Suite 505
Washington, DC 20001

Executive Director Office
211 W 3rd Street
Grand Island, NE 68801

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senate Majority Leader Schumer and Senate Minority McConnell,

We hope this finds you well.

On behalf of the Native CDFI Network (NCN) and the more than 70 federally certified Native community development financial institutions (CDFIs) it serves, we write to collectively express our opposition to the recently introduced Senate amendment to H.R. 4373, legislation that seeks to provide supplemental appropriations to support ongoing COVID-19 pandemic relief and recovery efforts. We specifically object to the proposed language that would take roughly one quarter (\$2.5 billion) of the legislation's \$10 billion package from the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI), a program Tribal Nations are counting heavily on as they work to stabilize and grow their economies, particularly through the cultivation of small businesses owned and operated by tribal citizens.

Tribal Nations first became eligible to participate in the SSBCI program just one year ago through the American Rescue Plan Act, and the deadline for tribal governments to apply is still more than one month away. Many tribal governments – including a number working in partnership with Native CDFIs – have applied or plan to apply by the May 11, 2022 deadline. Significantly reducing the amount of funding available to tribal applicants for technical assistance and capital deployment to Native-owned small businesses would have a chilling effect on the breadth and effectiveness of Tribal Nations' economic recovery efforts.

In lockstep with tribal governments, Native CDFIs also oppose the amendment's proposed language rescinding \$887 million from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund, which would result in a catastrophic 45 percent reduction (totaling \$221.75 million) in flexible funding to eligible tribal governments during Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023.

NCN and the listed signatories on this letter call on the U.S. Senate to ensure that dedicated funding for Tribal Nations already allocated by Congress is not reduced in any way through this legislation.

Sincerely,

Pete Upton
NCN Board Chair/Interim Executive Director

Robin Danner
NCN Policy Committee Chair