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WASHINGTON

FACT SHEET:

Senate Passes Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation Advancing Economic and Public Health Opportunities for Tribal Communities

On President Biden's 203rd day in office, 19 Republican senators joined the Democratic caucus to pass historic infrastructure legislation. Infrastructure has bedeviled previous administrations – despite near-weekly promises – and some of the loudest voices in the Republican party campaigned against this agreement, but President Biden delivered where others had failed.

President Biden believes we must invest in our country, including Tribal communities, by creating good jobs, improving public health and resources, and sustaining equitable economic growth for decades to come. The bipartisan infrastructure legislation – along with the President's Build Back Better Agenda – will deliver progress towards this vision for working families across the country. The infrastructure legislation includes investments that advance equity throughout our economy – making it more fair, equitable, and just. It will invest billions of dollars directly in Tribal communities across the country, and make Tribal communities eligible for billions more in much-needed investments. In addition, the legislation includes investments in Tribal Governments, enabling regional development and capacity-building to help Tribal communities unlock the full potential of this historic funding.

This historic legislation will:

- **Support Critical Infrastructure Including Clean and Safe Drinking Water for Tribal Communities.** The deal makes the largest investment in clean drinking water in American history with \$55 billion in funding. This includes an investment of approximately \$6 billion dollars to support water infrastructure in Tribal communities, including the Indian Health Service Sanitation Facilities Construction program. It also includes targeted funding for the Department of the Interior's Rural Water Program and Technical Assistance for Tribes Program and large increases in Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, a portion of which will be set-aside for Tribal communities.
- **Bridge the Digital Divide to Ensure Every Native American Has Access to Reliable High-Speed Internet.** The deal will help lower prices for internet service and ensure all Americans can do their jobs, equally participate in school, access health care, and stay connected. The plan will invest \$65 billion to expand broadband, with \$2 billion set aside for a long-overdue expansion of broadband on Tribal lands, in consultation with Tribal Nations, and in U.S. Territories.
- **Invest Much-Needed Resources in the Tribal Transportation Program.** The deal provides a historic investment of \$2.4 billion over five years in the Tribal Transportation Program. Approximately \$4 billion in funding would provide urgently needed resources for often underdeveloped, unsafe, and poorly maintained road networks, and hundreds of bridges in need of repair in Indian Country.
- **Strengthen Resilience.** The deal makes our communities safer and our infrastructure more resilient to the impacts of climate change and cyber-attacks, with an investment of roughly \$50 billion. This includes funds to protect against droughts and floods, in addition to a major investment in weatherization. The bill is the largest investment in the resilience of physical and natural systems in American history. This includes substantial investments in programs for which Tribes and Tribal



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members are eligible, such as FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities pre-disaster mitigation program and for USDA's Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program.

- **Provide Tribal Communities Transition and Relocation Assistance.** Tribal lands are significantly at risk to the effects of climate change, particularly those of Alaska Natives Tribes and Villages that face multiple climate impacts. The deal invests in a new Tribal transition and relocation assistance program with approximately \$216 million in funding to support planning and voluntary, community led transitions for those Tribal communities who are most vulnerable to accelerating climate-driven disasters.
- **Protect Tribal Land and Water.** The deal invests in landscape-level resilience and conservation investments on federal, Tribal, and partner lands, including billions of dollars for coastal resilience programs and major landscape restoration initiatives. Tribal communities will be key partners in many of these initiatives.
- **Make the Largest Investment in the Country's History to Address Legacy Pollution.** The deal will invest more than \$21 billion in environmental remediation, making the largest investment to address the legacy pollution that harms the public health of communities and neighborhoods in American history, creating good-paying union jobs in hard-hit energy communities and advancing economic and environmental justice. The bill includes funds to clean up Superfund and brownfield sites, reclaim abandoned mine land and cap orphaned gas wells – including in rural communities and Tribal communities.
- **Electrify America's Power Infrastructure.** The legislation invests roughly \$60 billion – the single largest investment in American history – in clean energy transmission. It upgrades our power infrastructure, including by building thousands of miles of new, resilient transmission lines to facilitate the expansion of renewable energy. It creates a new Grid Deployment Authority, invests in research and development for advanced transmission and electricity distribution technologies, and promotes smart grid technologies that deliver flexibility and resilience. It invests in demonstration projects and research hubs for next generation technologies like advanced nuclear reactors, carbon capture, and clean hydrogen. Tribal communities will be key partners in many of these initiatives.

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