



Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council

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January 17th, 2025

Senator Jonathan Windy Boy
SD 16
P.O. Box 250
Box Elder, Montana 59521

Re: Letter to support the Montana Indian Child Welfare Act – Senate Bill No. 147

Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council (TLC) has been created for the express purpose of providing its member Tribes with a unified voice and collective organization to address issues of concern to the Tribes and Indian people. RMTLC's mission is to promote the sovereignty, self-determination, and treaty rights of our member Indian Nations and Tribes.

The Board of Directors of the TLC consists of duly elected Tribal Chairs, Presidents, and Council Members who are fully authorized to represent their respective Tribes. TLC represents 10 Indian Nations which include: Blackfeet, Chippewa Cree of Rocky Boy, Confederated Salish and Kootenai, Crow Tribe, Eastern Shoshone, Fort Belknap Indian Community, Fort Peck Tribes Assiniboine-Sioux, Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, Eastern Shoshone Tribal Council, Northern Arapaho Tribal Council, Shoshone Bannock Tribes, and the Piikani Nation.

The TLC supports the Montana Legislature enacting a permanent state version of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), which was enacted in 1978 to stop the widespread removal of Indian children from their families, homes, and Tribal communities. TLC believes it is in the best interest of the TLC's children to be protected from harm and to prevent the unnecessary trauma that occurs when children are removed from their family, culture, and community.

Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council acknowledges that Tribes and Tribal communities, state governments, members of Congress, national and legal organizations, and thousands of Native American individuals have supported ICWA as an essential and effective policy that protects the best interests of Native American children.

TLC supports the legislation of the Montana Indian Child Welfare Act, in order to preserve for us and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our nations, to preserve cultural values, and to promote stable placements for the TLC's children in loving, permanent homes, connected to their families and our culture. Therefore, Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council supports the Montana Indian Child Welfare Act.

Respectfully,


Bryce Kirk (Jan 17, 2025 17:48 MST)

Bryce Kirk, Chairman
Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council