

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-5000

April 11, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin  
Secretary  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable David Bernhardt  
Secretary  
Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Munchin and Secretary Bernhardt:

As you consider comments from Tribal governments about how to allocate the \$8 billion set aside for them under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, I would like to echo a request made by Governor Mark Gordon of the State of Wyoming.

The Wind River Reservation is unique in that it is shared between two different tribal nations, the Eastern Shoshone Tribe and the Northern Arapaho Tribe. Historically, when federal funding has been distributed throughout Indian Country, the Wind River Reservation has received a lump sum to be allocated among the two tribes—without taking into account the differences or specific needs of each tribe.

As the COVID-19 pandemic affects communities across the country and around the world, it is clear that one-size-fits-all approaches will not work. While the Wind River Reservation is shared between two tribes, they exist and are governed separately and distinctly. The Eastern Shoshone and the Northern Arapaho have different enrollment numbers and healthcare services. The Eastern Shoshone Tribe receive their health care services directly from the Indian Health Service, while the Northern Arapaho Tribe manage their own healthcare centers pursuant to Indian Self-Determination Education and Assistance Act (ISDEAA) contract with the Indian Health Service.

I respectfully request that the Department of Treasury allocate COVID-19 pandemic relief funding separately to the Eastern Shoshone Tribe and the Northern Arapaho Tribe based upon their individual needs rather than as one entity of the Wind River Reservation.

Thank you for your efforts during this difficult time.

Sincerely,



Liz Cheney  
Member of Congress