



SENATOR HARRY REID, MAJORITY LEADER STRONG SUPPORTER OF NATIVE AMERICANS



Senator Reid is a leader on issues important to the American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities both in the state of Nevada and nationwide. While there are 564 federally-recognized tribes in the United States, Nevada is the home to twenty-seven Indian tribes, sovereign nations with historic and culturally important roots in the fabric of the state.

Throughout his career, Senator Reid has worked to protect tribal sovereignty, restore tribal landholdings and preserve the rights of Indian tribes to water and other resources. Senator Reid believes that the federal government has a moral and legal responsibility to aid this nation's first Americans and is committed to protecting tribal self-determination and sovereignty. Because of Senator Reid, Indian tribes can see improvements in their lives in the areas of health care, preservation of culture and resources, and economic recovery.

Senator Reid Worked to Restore Tribal Lands and Settle Water Rights to Indian Tribes as a Matter of the Trust Responsibility of the United States.

Senator Reid recognizes the unique history of and relationship that American Indian tribes have with the United States. Senator Reid has ensured that the federal government keeps its promises made in treaties, maintains its trust responsibility to Indian tribes, and upholds tribal sovereignty and Indian self-determination. Senator Reid has led the way to protect the rights and interests of tribes. Many of these rights and interests are rooted lands and resources, much of what was lost due to historic federal Indian policy. Senator Reid has made it a priority to right past wrongs for Indian tribes.

- Senator Reid led efforts to enact a law ordering the United States to distribute settlement funds, now totaling more than \$185 million, resulting in the resolution of the Western Shoshone land and accounting claims against the United States. [P.L. 108-270]
- Senator Reid passed a measure to address the Washoe Tribe's scarce land resources in order to meet the needs of their people. The United States conveyed land to the Washoe Tribe, with nearly half of those acres available for residential and commercial development. [P.L. 91-362]
- Senator Reid worked to enact the Ely Shoshone Tribe Land Transfer which transferred 3,526 acres to the Ely Shoshone Tribe for traditional, ceremonial, commercial and residential purposes. [P.L. 109-432]

HIGHLIGHTS OF SENATOR REID'S RECORD ON NATIVE AMERICAN ISSUES

- ★ Senator Reid Worked to Restore Tribal Lands and Settle Water Rights to Indian Tribes as a Matter of the Trust Responsibility of the United States
- ★ Senator Reid Improved the Delivery of Health Care Services to American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians
- ★ Senator Reid Fought for Better, Affordable Housing for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians
- ★ Senator Reid Championed Legislation to Create Jobs and Improve Economic Development
- ★ Senator Reid Appointed Native Americans to Key Federal Positions

- In 1983, Senator Reid (then in the US House of Representatives) passed a measure to declare 3,850 acres of land held in trust by the federal government to be the Las Vegas Paiute Reservation. [P.L. 98-203]
- In 1986, Senator Reid worked hard to expand the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony from its original 28-acre reservation with 1,960 more acres establishing the Hungry Valley reservation. [P.L. 99-389]
- Senator Reid was an original cosponsor of the *White Pine County Conservation, Recreation & Development Act of 2006*, which became law and transferred federal lands to the Ely Shoshone Tribe for conservation, cultural and economic development purposes. [S. 3772, Introduced 8/1/06, enacted in P.L 109-432]
- Senator Reid introduced the Elko Indian Colony Expansion bill which will provide a much needed expansion for the Elko Band of the Te-Moak Western Shoshones who live in the Elko Indian Colony. [S. 3185, Introduced 3/25/10]
- Senator Reid has led the legislative effort to quantify Indian water rights and settle long-standing claims against the United States. The Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe (1990), the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (1990), and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation (2009) have been able to develop their water rights and their economies because of these settlements. [P.L. 101-618; P.L. 101-618; P.L. 111-11]

Senator Reid Improved the Delivery of Health Care Services to American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians. Federal health care assistance for Native Americans addresses the poor health conditions in Indian Country and carries out the Federal treaty and trust responsibilities owed to Indian tribes. Senator Reid has staunchly supported and co-sponsored the *Indian Health Care Improvement Reauthorization and Extension Act*, the key legal authority for the provision of health care to American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians, which had not been reauthorized since 2001. In 2009, Senator Reid included the *Indian Health Care Improvement Reauthorization and Extension Act* in the health care reform bill, which was signed into law on March 22, 2010. With the passage of the health care reform bill, Indian health care programs are now permanently authorized and have been comprehensively modernized for the first time since 1992. Senator Reid also cosponsored legislation which became law, making tribes and tribal organizations eligible for grant programs to address methamphetamine use and the ravaging affects of use in rural Native American communities. Senator Reid has also strongly supported legislation to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. American Indians and Alaska Natives bear the highest prevalence of diabetes in the United States. [S. 1790, Introduced 10/15/09; H.R. 3590, P.L. 111-148; S. 267, Introduced 01/11/07, P.L. 110-161; S.1494, Introduced 05/24/07]

Senator Reid Fought for Better, Affordable Housing for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Senator Reid served as an original co-sponsor of the *Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2007* (NAHASDA). As a believer that healthy and safe homes create a foundation for prosperity, Senator Reid steered the reauthorization of NAHASDA in order to address the need for affordable homes in safe and healthy environments in Indian communities and Alaska Native villages and on Native Hawaiian Home Lands. [S. 1790, Introduced 9/17/09; P.L. 111-148; UC, S. 4113, 12/8/06; S. 1494, Introduced 5/24/07; P.L. 110-411]

Senator Reid Championed Legislation to Create Jobs and Improve Economic Development. Senator Reid secured nearly \$3 billion in assistance for Federal programs that serve Indian tribes under the *American Reinvestment and Recovery Act* to spur job creation and community and economic development in Indian Country. Senator Reid renewed his commitment to support economic development in Indian Country when he ensured tribal programs were included in the economic stimulus legislation. The Department of Housing and Development (HUD) programs were funded at more than \$500 million for Indian housing and infrastructure programs. Indian health care received upwards of \$500 million for contract health services and facilities construction. Tribal energy programs were allocated \$64 million in block grant and weatherization dollars. Tribal education programs were funded at more than \$800 million to build and modernize schools. Tribal elder nutrition programs received \$3 million. Tribal jails programs were awarded \$225 million for new construction. Tribal transportation programs were funded at more than \$160 million to encourage use of and enhance access to transportation systems in Native American communities. [HR 1, P.L. 111-5]

Senator Reid Appointed Native Americans to Key Federal Positions. Senator Reid appointed Pyramid Lake Paiute Chairman Mervin Wright to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee. Mr. Wright is the first Nevadan to serve on this commission. Senator Reid appointed Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Chairman Arlan Melendez to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Mr. Melendez is the second Native American to serve on the Commission. [<http://www.usccr.gov/cos/bio/melendez.htm>; http://www.nps.gov/nagpra/REVIEW/RC_Roster_Sep09.htm]

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