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State-Tribal Relations Committee

64th Montana Legislature

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JILL COHENOUR
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HOPE STOCKWELL, Lead Staff
LAURA SANKEY, Staff Attorney
KRISTINA LIMING, Secretary

October 22, 2015

Senator Jon Tester
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-2604

Dear Senator Tester,

I write to you on behalf of the Montana Legislature's State-Tribal Relations Committee (STRC) to thank you for your sponsorship of and encourage your continued fight for S. 1419, the Native Language Immersion Student Achievement Act. The STRC applauds the decision of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee yesterday to advance the legislation. The STRC believes promoting innovative and culturally relevant language immersion programs will improve student achievement, strengthen families, and help preserve and perpetuate Indian language and culture throughout Indian country, Montana, and the United States.

As you know, the Montana Legislature adopted similar legislation, the Cultural Integrity Commitment Act (Senate Bill No. 272), earlier this year. Our committee is watching the implementation of this funding program closely. Recognizing that Montana's \$45,000 one-time-only appropriation may be insufficient to support all interested school districts, we are pleased there may be federal funding available as well.

Senator Tester, please let me know if I, or the committee, can be of assistance to you in your efforts to pass S. 1419 and get a companion bill introduced and passed in the House. To that end, the committee is sending letters of support to Senator Steve Daines and Congressman Ryan Zinke.

Thank you again for your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Senator Jonathan Windy Boy
Chair



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KRISTINA LIMING, Secretary

October 22, 2015

Senator Steve Daines
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Daines,

I write on behalf of the Montana Legislature's State-Tribal Relations Committee (STRC), asking for your support of S. 1419, the Native Language Immersion Student Achievement Act, sponsored by Senator Jon Tester. The STRC applauds the decision of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee yesterday to advance the legislation and hopes you will help shepherd it through the rest of the Senate.

The STRC believes promoting innovative and culturally relevant language immersion programs will improve student achievement, strengthen families, and help preserve and perpetuate Indian language and culture throughout Indian country, Montana, and the United States. As you may know, the Montana Legislature adopted similar legislation, the Cultural Integrity Commitment Act (Senate Bill No. 272), earlier this year. Our committee is watching the implementation of this funding program closely. Recognizing that Montana's \$45,000 one-time-only appropriation may be insufficient to support all interested school districts, we are pleased there may be federal funding available as well.

Senator Daines, please let me know if I, or the committee, can be of assistance to you as you consider S. 1419. We hope not only for Senate approval of the legislation, but also that a companion bill will be introduced and approved in the House. To that end, the committee is sending a letter of support to Congressman Ryan Zinke.

Thank you again for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Senator Jonathan Windy Boy
Chair



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LAURA SANKEY, Staff Attorney
KRISTINA LIMING, Secretary

October 22, 2015

Congressman Ryan Zinke
113 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2601

Dear Congressman Zinke,

I write to you on behalf of the Montana Legislature's State-Tribal Relations Committee (STRC) to encourage your support of the Native Language Immersion Student Achievement Act. The STRC applauds the decision of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee yesterday to advance S. 1419, sponsored by Senator Jon Tester. We respectfully ask you to introduce a companion bill in the House.

The STRC believes promoting innovative and culturally relevant language immersion programs will improve student achievement, strengthen families, and help preserve and perpetuate Indian language and culture throughout Indian country, Montana, and the United States. As you may know, the Montana Legislature adopted similar legislation, the Cultural Integrity Commitment Act (Senate Bill No. 272), earlier this year. Our committee is watching the implementation of this funding program closely. Recognizing that Montana's \$45,000 one-time-only appropriation may be insufficient to support all interested school districts, we are pleased there may be federal funding available as well.

Congressman Zinke, please let me know if I, or the committee, can be of assistance to you as you consider introducing a companion bill to S. 1419. We have also sent letters of support for the Act to Senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines.

Thank you again for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Senator Jonathan Windy Boy
Chair