

[TRIBAL ENTERPRISE LETTERHEAD]

[DATE]

Honorable [FIRST & LAST NAME]
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator [NAME]:

We are requesting your support for a floor amendment to the FY2011 National Defense Authorization Act. Inserted during Conference Committee last year, section 811 of FY2010 NDAA placed a drastic limit on contracting for Native small business enterprises.

That amendment, which was in neither the House nor Senate versions of the NDAA, is targeted solely at Native American Contracting and is being incorrectly interpreted as capping a sole source contract to \$20 million for the life of the contract. Subsequent discussions make clear that this was not the intent, but the Department of Defense needs clarification from the Congress so it can apply the provision correctly. The Amendment we are asking you to support would clearly define the \$20 million limit to apply to the base year of a contract and not to the total value of the contract. This allows the Department of Defense to fairly and properly administer these contracts over the life of the contract.

The ability to contract over a term of years is critical to our tribes' overall economic success and will greatly enhance our ability to provide critical government, social, and cultural services to our members and build infrastructure in our community.

For many Tribes, the 8(a) program is just becoming a viable method for business development. To put a serious crimp in the program, when it is only just beginning to make a difference for so many, is not the appropriate way for the federal government to work with Tribes. [ADD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO THE TRIBE.]

Sincerely,

[NAME]
[TITLE]

cc: Sarah L. Lukin, Native American Contractors Association