

The Dunleavy Administration's recommended actions on Land Into Trust is a betrayal of its own stated mission to support rural communities and build a better Alaska. Tlingit & Haida unequivocally opposes Governor Dunleavy's decision to make an attack on tribal sovereignty as one of the highest priorities in Alaska's Federal Transition Plan. It is both alarming and offensive that the Governor's second priority targets the ability of Alaska Tribes to place lands into trust—lands that are essential for safeguarding our sovereignty and protecting our tribal homelands in perpetuity.

We are further dismayed by the continued lack of transparency and accountability in how the State of Alaska approaches its relationship with tribes. Time and again, tribal governments have been excluded from decision-making processes that directly impact us, violating the State's responsibility to engage in meaningful consultation, leaving Tribes with another broken promise. The State's failure to consult with stakeholders, including Tribes, in the creation of this document is a significant oversight. Alaska's Constitution establishes a representative government that promotes transparency and accountability in Government. This Federal Priorities document, crafted in isolation, disregards the diverse perspectives and needs of Alaska's citizens.

Tribal governments in Alaska have long demonstrated their ability to lead where the State has failed, particularly in providing critical services in rural areas. Tribes are critical drivers of economic growth, bringing jobs, infrastructure development, and cultural tourism to the region. Tribes provide essential services and invest in the well-being of all Alaskans. By working collaboratively with tribes, the state can unlock significant economic and social benefits for its communities. In Southeast Alaska alone, the Tribal Government sector has been the only area of economic growth, as noted by Southeast Conference data. Strong tribal governments uplift entire regions, benefiting all Alaskans—not just tribal citizens.

The State's relentless opposition to land-into-trust—arguing against the federal process that protects tribal lands and jurisdiction—is both unfounded and counterproductive. Federal courts have twice upheld the Secretary of the Interior's authority to take land into trust in Alaska, affirming that tribes retain this critical right. This repeated legal affirmation underscores the legitimacy of the trust land process and highlights the State's continued efforts to erode tribal sovereignty as both unnecessary and harmful.

Tlingit & Haida has always held that placing lands into trust is fundamental to protecting our traditional homelands in perpetuity. This is not just a matter of governance but a sacred responsibility to safeguard the lands that define who we are as Indigenous peoples. Governor Dunleavy's attack on this process is not only harmful but entirely counterproductive to the goal of improving the lives of all Alaskans.

If the State of Alaska is serious about building a stronger future, it must begin by respecting tribal sovereignty and recognizing tribal governments as sovereign and equal

partners—not adversaries. It is time for Alaska to honor its commitments and work with tribes, not against us.