

Business Committee Meets with Congress and Biden Administration in Washington, D.C.

During the week of February 21, 2023, the Business Committee held meetings with Congressional Offices, the Biden Administration, and attended the National Congress of American Indians' (NCAI) 2023 Executive Council Winter Session. During the meetings, the Business Committee had the opportunity to raise some of the Tribe's most pressing issues with officials in Washington, D.C.

The Business Committee started the week attending the NCAI General Assembly and the State of Indian Nations (SOIN) address held at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. Senator Warren provided the Congressional response to the SOIN. During both events, NCAI and Senator Warren joined the Business Committee in calling for "free, prior, and informed consent" as the best standard for tribal consultation. After the address the Business Committee visited the National Archives to view the original 1863 and 1868 Ute Treaties.



Business Committee Members Julius Murray and Christopher Tabbee view Treaties at the National Archives

Throughout the week the Business Committee met with a number of House and Senate Offices to press Congress to pass a legislative fix to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Castro-Huerta*. The decision upset over 200 years of federal Indian law to create new authority for states in Indian Country. The Business Committee discussed how the proposed fix would directly address Justice Kavanaugh's mistaken decision. The Business Committee also urged Congress to enact a strong "Honoring Promises to Native Nations" bill to address chronic underfunding of federal Indian programs.

The Business Committee also met with the United States Department of Agriculture Under Secretary, the Environmental Protection Agency, White House Officials, and the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. The Business Committee met with these officials to discuss management of the Ashley National Forest, new rules for air quality, restoration of Tribal homelands, and management of its Uintah and Ouray Reservation.