



The Honorable Ron Wyden
707 13th Street SE
Suite 285
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
500 Liberty Street SE
Suite 320
Salem, Oregon 97301

March 17, 2020

Dear Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley,

During these trying times, our thoughts are to the health of not only our people, but of the important small businesses that support the economic infrastructure of our communities.

The **Northwest Native Lending Network (NNLN)** is a partnership network designed to support Native Community Development Financial Institutions and other lending institutions to better serve Native entrepreneurs in the Pacific Northwest. It is comprised of thirteen organizations throughout Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. The NNLN resides under ATNI-EDC.

Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) are at the forefront of small business financing and economic impact at the local level. Native CDFIs leverage each dollar from the CDFI Fund up to twelve times with private dollars. NNLN members live and work in the communities we serve. CDFI's provide capital to community members that may not be able to secure a traditional bank loan. They are a conduit for capital into Native communities and enable tribal members to realize entrepreneurial dreams. Investments in Native CDFIs mean direct investment in tribal communities to thrive and grow.

Because CDFIs are deeply rooted in our communities and can deploy resources quickly, it is imperative that the CDFI industry is leveraged to deliver economic assistance. In response to the COVID-19 emergency, **the NNLN urges Congress to appropriate \$1 billion to the CDFI Fund in emergency capital and supplemental technical assistance separate and above annual appropriations. Of this emergency supplemental support, the NNLN urges Congress to ensure that \$100 million support Native CDFIs either directly, or through the Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) Program.**

Respectfully,

Amber Schulz-Oliver
Executive Director
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Corporation
Board Member
Oregon Growth Board

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Native CDFI Members of the **Northwest Native Lending Network:**

- ATNI-EDC Portland, Oregon
- Chehalis Tribal Loan Fund Oakville, Washington
- Indian Land Capital Company Little Canada, Minnesota
- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribal Capital Sequim, Washington
- Lummi CDFI Bellingham, Washington
- NACDC Financial Services Browning, Montana
- Nimiipuu Community Development Fund Lapwai, Idaho
- Nixyaawii Community Financial Services Pendleton, Oregon
- Northwest Native Development Fund Coulee Dam, Washington
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Fort Hall, Idaho
- Taala Fund Pacific Beach, Washington