

Snoqualmie Indian Tribe Voters Guide | Derek Kilmer Full Responses

Kilmer is running for U.S. House of Representatives District 6

Do you have experience working with tribes? I have been honored to partner with our region's tribes since my time in the State Legislature. As the Representative for Washington's 6th Congressional District, I work closely with Washington State Tribes and have been a strong advocate in ensuring that the federal government fulfill its treaty and trust obligations. As a member of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, the Congressional Native American Caucus, and a DCCC Tribal Co-Chair, I am proud to partner with Indian Country to support tribal sovereignty, to advocate for additional resources to Tribal governments, and to support policy priorities important to Tribal Nations.

If you were elected, how would you and your staff interact with tribes? I believe that frequent and meaningful communication with tribal leaders and their members is critical to representing the 6th District and Washington State in Congress. Since my time in office, I have made it a priority to visit every tribal reservation and tribal council in and near my district to ensure that tribal communities are being heard by their representative in Congress. As a member of tribal-related committees and working groups, my staff has built strong relationships with tribes across the state and nation to help advocate for sound policy and investments in Indian Country. I look forward to continuing these partnerships into the future.

What is your position on tribal sovereignty? I fully support tribal sovereignty and have consistently supported legislation that honors tribal sovereignty, self-determination and self-governance including:

- HR 2719 - Tribal Coastal Resiliency Act
- HR 249, HR 407 and HR 3137 which all reaffirm the authority of the Sec. of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes
- HR 511 - Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act
- HR 684 - Non-Disparagement of Native American Persons or Peoples in Trademark Registration Act of 2015),
- HR 360 - NAHASDA Reauthorization
- HR 4131 - Bring the Ancient One Home Act of 2015
- HR 812 - Indian Trust Asset Reform Act
- HR 1542 - Tribal Adoption Parity Act
- HR 5412 - To provide the right of American Indians born in Canada or the United States to pass the borders of the United States to any individual who is a member, or is eligible to be a member, of a Federally recognized Indian tribe in the United States or Canada

Would you support the Tribe in its duty to protect sacred Snoqualmie Falls? If so, how? I support the efforts of all tribal nations to protect sacred and historic sites, including Snoqualmie, by recognizing and reaffirming each tribe's sovereign authority to approve or prohibit activities on tribal lands.

Do you support increasing funding to tribes for treaty-guaranteed services such as education and health care? Yes, and as a member of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, I have been a vocal advocate for increasing funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Education, and the Indian Health Service. I have also called upon the US Commission on Civil Rights to update the 2003 'A Quiet Crisis' Report which documented the drastically unmet needs for treaty-guaranteed services across the nation. When the updated report is released later this year, it will provide a roadmap for Congress to finally begin to address these problems

and reaffirm our commitment to upholding our sacred trust and treaty obligations. I will advocate for the policy and funding level changes needed to meet the recommendations included in this report.

What is your position on the collection of tax, on tribal lands? I believe that tribal governments, as sovereign nations, should have the right to collect their own taxes on tribal lands. Similarly, state and federal governments should not have the authority to impose taxes on tribal lands.

Would you support tribal representation in the Federal level? Recognizing the importance of the government-to-government relationship between the federal government and federally recognized tribes, and the federal trust responsibility, I believe there is a need to ensure the federal government engages in meaningful coordination and consultation with tribes. That's why I strongly supported the establishment of the White House Council on Native American Affairs whose purpose is to honor treaties and ensure that tribes' inherent sovereignty and right to self-governance is recognized and protected by improving coordination of Federal programs and the use of resources available to tribal communities.