



**Region 10 Tribal Consortium  
P.O. Box 689  
Spokane, Washington 99210**

December 16, 2020

Biden-Harris Transition Team  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

**RE: Appointment of Native American as EPA Region 10 Administrator**

Dear Madam or Sir:

This letter is sent on behalf of the Tribal Caucus members of EPA Region 10's Tribal Operations Committee ("RTOC"). This letter is not sent on behalf of EPA Region 10 or any employees of EPA, but solely tribal government representatives of the RTOC. This letter is regarding a formal request to appoint a Native American to serve as EPA Region 10 Administrator.

The Regional Administrator has many responsibilities, but one of those duties is to ensure that the EPA maintains a special government-to-government relationship with the tribes in the region. Region 10 of the EPA represents 271 federally recognized tribes in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. EPA Region 10 has the largest tribal presence than any of other EPA Region with vast amounts of vital natural resources and there has never been a Native American in the position of Regional Administrator. We firmly believe that having a Native American in the position Regional Administrator would benefit not only tribes, but the entire region.

The incoming Biden-Harris administration has published an action plan regarding tribal nations. First, they have stated a commitment to strengthening government-to-government relations. Second, they have stated they will make an active effort to appoint Native Americans to high-level government positions to ensure tribal nations have a strong voice and role in the federal government. Finally, they have "[r]estore tribal lands, address climate change, and safeguard natural and cultural resources." The suggested appointment would be a huge step forward for attaining each of those goals.

There have been quite a few recent issues surrounding the Trump administration policies that have caused problems and created tension between the federal government and the tribes in the Pacific Northwest. Having the first indigenous Regional Administrator would mean a great deal

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to Tribal Nations in the Region and start to begin the healing and facilitating our government relations.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond Paddock II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" at the beginning.

Raymond Paddock  
RTOC Co-Chair

Cc: Senate Delegation for Idaho, Oregon, Alaska, and Washington

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