

**JON TESTER**

# ***Working with the Blackfeet Tribe***

*As a member of the Indian Affairs Committee, Jon Tester has relentlessly fought for the Blackfeet Tribe during his time in the Senate. Whether it's working to improve schools, health care, and infrastructure, or standing up to crime, Jon has worked closely with the Blackfeet Tribe on a number of important issues, and he will continue to be a strong advocate for Montana's Tribes.*

## **WORKING WITH BLACKFEET TRIBE, JON:**

**Secured authorization of the Blackfeet Water Compact**  
*in 2016 and secured the initial \$10 million for the Compact in 2018.*

**Secured \$100,000 for the Blackfeet Community College**  
*from the National Endowment for the Humanities to fund the College's tribal language and culture project at (preserving their culture).*

**Ensured Blackfeet members received fair market value**  
*for their land and the tribe received greater control of their land through the Land Buy Back program.*

**Fought to protect the Badger-Two Medicine**  
*from out-of-state developers at the request of the tribe.*

**Introduced the Tribal Youth & Community Protection Act**  
*to expand the Tribe's ability to combat drug-related offenses and crimes against children.*

**Secured \$600,000 for Blackfeet Community College**  
*to improve health care training and education.*

**Secured language in the omnibus**  
*to conduct a feasibility study of establishing an initiative to employ Native American veterans within the ranks of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, including a potential creation of a tribal-specific branch of Border Patrol.*

***"I am working on issues important to Native American families that will increase self-governance, promote tribal sovereignty, strengthen Indian communities, and ensure the federal government upholds its trust responsibilities. The bottom line is you've got to empower tribes, then things are going to happen."***

PAID FOR BY MONTANANS FOR TESTER

**JON  
TESTER**  
U.S. SENATE

Jon has been a leading voice for Indian Country in the 115th Congress and has continuously reminded the new Administration of the federal government's trust and treaty responsibilities to Indian Tribes, the nation-to-nation relationship that exists and to conduct meaningful, high level consultation with tribes.

### **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

- Jon is fighting to remove barriers to Tribal Law Enforcement, raising awareness of missing and murdered Native American women.
- Jon is fighting to improve data and information sharing on missing and murdered indigenous women.
- Jon has passed a landmark bill expanding the jurisdictions of tribal courts to prosecute non-Native offenders in domestic violence disputes through the *Violence Against Women Act*.

### **NATIVE YOUTH**

- Jon expanded the AMBER Alert child abduction warning system to reservations.
- Jon is increasing opportunities for Native youth having established a commission to study current programs serving Native children and identify ways to enhance them.
- Jon ensured Native languages are preserved for the next generations, pushing the *Esther Martinez Native American Language Preservation Act* currently in Congress and securing grants to tribes for language immersion in schools in the *Every Student Succeeds Act* that became law in 2016.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Jon boosted economic development in Indian Country by allowing tribes to consolidate and innovate in the delivery of employment and job training initiatives through the *Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act* and *Native Business Incubators Act*.
- Jon supports the Native Community Development Financial Institutions Fund that provides capital to tribal members.

### **CRIME AND ADDICTION**

- Jon's *Tribal Law and Order Act* strengthened tribal law enforcement's ability to keep communities safe.
- Jon secured appropriations for an unprecedented tribal set aside in the Crime Victims Fund to be used for victim resources and support.
- Jon ensured tribes had access to resources to combat the opioid epidemic, resources that are flexible to the unique needs of tribal communities and support culturally relevant methods of treatment.

### **EDUCATION**

- Jon is working to support Native American educators who want to teach in Indian Country.
- Jon stood up to his colleagues and saved resources aimed at improving education for Native American children.
- Jon supports Montana's seven tribal colleges and universities, the most of any state, by advocating for increased resources.

### **HEALTH CARE**

- Jon stood up to the Trump Administration and demanded answers for how their spending proposal would impact care for Native Americans.
- Jon permanently secured and expanded health care services for Indian Country.
- Jon is fighting for parity for Urban Indian Health Clinics that serve all tribal members across the state.

### **HOUSING**

- Jon secured housing assistance for Native American veterans and is continuing to work to make that assistance a permanent program.
- Jon secured housing assistance and community development funds for tribal communities and is fighting to reauthorize the *Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act*.

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