

Chairman Harold Frazier, Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association said:

On behalf of the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association, we applaud Senator Warren and Congresswoman Haaland for taking the leadership role in addressing the Civil Right's Report on the United States "Broken Promises" to our Native Peoples.

We have advocated for establishment of the Deputy Secretary for Indian Nations at the U.S. Department of the Interior because our Indian nations represent people and we need action on education, health care, law enforcement, roads--essential government services. We need respect for our original treaties with the United States, and respect for our governments.

We strongly support the establishment of the White House Council on Native Nations by statute. The White House Council needs to gather all the Departments and agencies together to work with Indian nations to address our concerns. We need a Sacred Lands Committee to work with us to protect our sacred sites on Federal lands, and return those lands that were wrongfully taken from our Indian nations.

A matter of life and death—Indian Reservation Roads. Due to a lack of maintenance and construction funding, many Indian Reservation Roads have become dangerous. Accidental death is the primary cause of loss of life among American Indians aged 15 to 24 in the Great Plains, the Motor Vehicle Death Rate among 15-24 American Indians is 3.5x higher than the general population, and the dangerous road conditions on Indian reservations are a contributing cause of this mortality. The flood conditions and flood damage on Indian reservations have seriously damaged many tribal and BIA roads throughout South Dakota. We need immediate FY 2020 funding for roads, bridges and culverts. We need safe BIA/Tribal School Bus Routes. We need direct access to the BUILD Program, just like state governments get. We applaud Senator Warren and Representative Haaland for their efforts to address these issues.