

JON TESTER

Fighting for Indian Country

As a member of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee since 2007, Jon has been a leading voice for Indian Country in Congress. He has relentlessly held the federal government accountable to its trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribes, honored the nation-to-nation relationship that exists between them, and partnered with Tribes across all areas of policy and government. Jon fights every day to improve public safety, combat addiction and drug trafficking, bolster health care, and invest in education and infrastructure in Indian Country.

Murdered and Missing Indigenous People (MMIP)

Jon passed his *Savanna's Act*, which improves coordination with Tribes and enhances law enforcement's ability to track and prevent crimes against Native Americans. Jon secured more than \$350 million to combat the MMIP crisis and invest in public safety, including for Montana Tribal law enforcement and justice systems.

Safety in Indian Country

Jon has secured hundreds of millions for a range of public safety initiatives in Indian Country, including to research and prosecute domestic and sexual violence against Native women and bolster Tribal juvenile justice programs. Jon delivered funding for Tribal law enforcement to hire personnel, get more equipment, combat human trafficking, and hold criminals accountable.

Jon fought to pass his *FEND Off Fentanyl Act*, which declares illegal fentanyl trafficking a national emergency and imposes economic sanctions on international criminal organizations, including from China, that are involved in fentanyl trafficking.

Economic Development and Infrastructure

Jon negotiated, wrote, and passed into law a bipartisan infrastructure bill that delivered more than \$1.5 billion in investments for Tribes in Montana, including for roads, expansion of internet access, and water infrastructure. Jon secured hundreds of



“As long as I’m in the Senate, Tribal Nations in Montana will have a partner and a seat at the table. I will continue to work with Tribal leaders to fulfill our trust responsibilities and deliver for Indian Country...”

Jon Tester

JON TESTER FOR U.S. SENATE

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millions to bring high-speed internet to more than 7,000 Montana Tribal households to increase internet access.

Jon negotiated and passed into law \$1.3 billion in bipartisan funding to complete all existing Montana Indian water rights settlements.

Health Care

In 2022, Jon secured historic funding for the Indian Health Service: an increase of \$297 million over the previous year's funding. In 2021, Jon secured more than \$6 billion in funding for the Indian Health Service to address the impacts of the pandemic.

Tribal Sovereignty and Federal Accountability

The first bill Jon ever introduced was legislation to federally recognize the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He introduced it every Congress from 2007 to 2019 until he and Tribal leaders were successful in getting it passed, correcting more than a century of injustice for the Little Shell people.

Jon has met with Montana Tribal leaders more than a dozen times just in the last two years to ensure accountability for Tribal nations and that the federal government is upholding its trust and treaty obligations.

Native Veterans

Jon fought to pass legislation that required the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to consult with Tribes to improve mental health care for Native veterans as well as legislation that eliminated copayments for Native veterans accessing VA health care.

Jon is fighting every day to reduce housing costs for Native veterans and help them achieve homeownership, including by introducing bipartisan legislation that would improve access to home loans for Native veterans.



Tribal Education

Jon introduced and led a bipartisan group of senators to pass his bill providing tens of millions of dollars in annual funding for Montana's Tribal colleges to expand programs for Native students. Jon helped pass bipartisan legislation to preserve Native American languages by funding and expanding Native language classes. The bill lowered the enrollment threshold for funding eligibility and gave organizations a longer period before needing to reapply for funding.

Jon secured more than \$8 million in early care and education funding for programs that provide services to Native children in Tribes from Montana.

Tribal Housing

Jon has introduced and fought for legislation to reduce mortgage processing delays at the Bureau of Indian Affairs. And Jon has introduced and fought for legislation to make a permanent program to improve access to mortgage loans in Indian Country.

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