To: All Tribal Members

From: Governor Raymond Aguilar, Jr. and Lt. Governor Ivan Garcia

October 30, 2026

Oppose S.5653, known as the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026 (BAAJA)

Greetings,

A recent bill "S.5653" sponsored by Senator Martin Heinrich has raised concerns amongst Native Nations throughout the country. I ask that you join me in opposing this bill which threatens our sovereignty. The bill weakens tribal consultation, sovereign engagement, and cultural protection.

As quoted per the National Trust for Historic Preservation "*The Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act (BAAJA) contains several provisions that would negate the core protections and purpose of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 by empowering federal agencies to make unilateral decisions without consulting state or local governments, Tribes, or the American public. The proposed legislation also contains multiple ambiguous provisions that would generate confusion and litigation, and lead to the loss of historic resources. This analysis focuses on provisions of greatest concern and is not an exhaustive review of all issues raised by the bill".*

We ask that you call the national and local offices of Senator Heinrich and Ben Ray Lujan. Let them know you oppose the **Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026 (BAAJA).**

Senator Heinrich https://www.heinrich.senate.gov/
Washington D.C. Office (202) 224-5521 Albuquerque Office (505) 346-6601

Senator Ben Ray Lujan https://lujan.senate.gov/
Washington D.C. Office (202) 224-6621 Albuquerque Office (505) 337-7023

Respectfully,

Raymond Aguilar Jr.
Governor

Ivan Garcia
Lt. Governor