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*A little review: The Republican "Contract with America" (1994)*

*Full text of "Project 2025 Mandate For Leadership"*



“Voting Tribal” Image by Medium Output March 2026

## **Trump's Voting Law Will Prevent Most Native Americans From Voting With Tribal ID's**

[Martin D. Vasquez](#) Mar 24, 2026

**The SAVE Act claims to accept tribal IDs for voter registration, but its fine print would disqualify most of them, blocking thousands of Native Americans from voting in the country they never left.**

The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, better known as the SAVE Act, contains what appears to be a concession to Native American voters. The legislation, which would require all Americans to present documentary proof of citizenship when registering to vote, nominally permits tribal identification cards as acceptable documentation. But there is a catch. The SAVE Act requires that any tribal ID must include the holder's place of birth and a visible expiration date. Most tribal IDs include neither. The result is that thousands of Native Americans who rely on their tribal identification, issued by sovereign governments, would be unable to register to vote unless they can produce additional documents that many do not possess.

The bill passed the House in April 2025 and is currently working its way through the Senate. For most Americans, its requirements would be an inconvenience. For many Native Americans living on reservations, where birth certificates were historically maintained by federal Indian Census Rolls rather than state vital statistics offices, where the nearest election office may be a hundred

miles away, and where poverty rates make obtaining passports prohibitively expensive, the SAVE Act could make voting impossible.

### **The Documentation Gap**

The SAVE Act operates on an assumption that all Americans have ready access to standardized vital records. This assumption collides with the lived reality of Native communities, where documentation systems have historically operated outside state norms.

Many older Native Americans were born at home on reservations and were never issued a U.S. government birth certificate. For decades, Native American vital records were maintained not by state vital statistics offices but by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which compiled birth and death information through Indian Census Rolls rather than the standardized state certificates that the SAVE Act would require. This historical parallel system means that Native elders, particularly those born before the 1960s, are especially likely to have incomplete, missing, or mismatched documentation.

The problem extends beyond historical records. Tribal nations are sovereign governments with their own administrative systems. Not all births occur in state-licensed hospitals. Many take place in Indian Health Service facilities, tribal clinics, or at home. In these cases, state birth certificates may be delayed or never issued unless families proactively navigate the paperwork. The SAVE Act makes no accommodation for these structural realities.

### **The Tribal ID Trap**

The legislation claims to permit tribal identification cards as acceptable documentation. But there is a catch that effectively renders this accommodation meaningless. The SAVE Act requires that any tribal ID used for voter registration must include the holder's place of birth. Standard tribal IDs, like most government-issued identification, do not include birth information. This means that despite the nominal inclusion of tribal IDs in the legislation, Native Americans would still need to produce an additional document, such as a certified birth certificate, hospital record, or adoption decree, to register to vote.

The problem compounds from there. The legislation also requires that any ID used for voting must have a visible expiration date. Many tribal IDs do not include expiration dates. Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, a Republican who has announced her opposition to the bill, pointed to this requirement as particularly harmful. "If your tribal ID does not have a termination or expiration date on it, it doesn't count for your voting ID when you go into the polls," she explained on the Senate floor.

Tribal IDs are issued by sovereign governments. They represent formal recognition of citizenship within a tribal nation. Yet under the SAVE Act, they would not be sufficient to establish citizenship for voter registration purposes. This creates a painful contradiction, one that some Native leaders argue undermines tribal sovereignty itself by suggesting that federally recognized tribal documentation is somehow less legitimate than state-issued papers.

### **Geography as Barrier**

The SAVE Act would require voters to present their documentation in person at election offices

during business hours. For Native Americans living on rural reservations, this requirement transforms a bureaucratic hurdle into a geographic impossibility.

State motor vehicle offices, vital records offices, and county election centers are generally located far from tribal lands. In some areas, tribal citizens would need to travel more than one hundred miles to reach their designated election office. In Alaska, the distances become even more extreme. Senator Murkowski described the predicament facing her constituents: a resident of Kipnuk would face a flight costing more than \$1,400 just to reach Anchorage, the closest city with an election office, some 800 air miles away. That price covers only transportation, not lodging, food, or time away from work.

The Native American Rights Fund has documented that American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native citizens living in rural and remote areas travel farther from election offices than the average American. Some would need to board an airplane simply to complete voter registration paperwork. The in-person requirement, combined with the documentation demands, would stack barriers upon barriers for communities that already face some of the highest structural obstacles to voting in the country.

### **Kansas Tried This. It Failed.**

The United States does not need to speculate about how documentary proof-of-citizenship requirements would play out in practice. Kansas conducted the experiment a decade ago, and the results were catastrophic for eligible voters.

In 2013, Kansas implemented a law requiring voters to present documentary proof of citizenship when registering. Over the following years, the law blocked more than 31,000 eligible citizens from registering to vote, representing 12 percent of all first-time registration applicants in the state. During the same period, state officials identified only 39 noncitizens who had registered over nearly two decades, an average of roughly three per year.

Federal courts ultimately struck down the Kansas law in 2018, ruling that it violated the National Voter Registration Act and unconstitutionally burdened the right to vote. The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals found that the law had blocked hundreds of eligible citizens for every noncitizen it identified. Today, even Kansas Republicans who supported the original law say they would not return to it. “Kansas did that 10 years ago,” said Republican Secretary of State Scott Schwab. “It didn’t work out so well.”

Arizona’s more limited citizenship documentation requirement has similarly blocked tens of thousands of voters from participating in state and local elections, with disproportionately high numbers living on tribal lands. The SAVE Act would impose requirements more restrictive than either state’s failed experiment, applying them nationwide.

### **A Solution Without a Problem**

The SAVE Act is premised on fears of widespread noncitizen voting. But this problem essentially does not exist. Noncitizen voting in federal elections is already illegal under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, and has been for thirty

years. Instances of enforcement are vanishingly rare because instances of violation are vanishingly rare.

Utah recently conducted a comprehensive citizenship review of its entire voter registration list, examining more than 2 million registered voters. After a time-intensive, multi-step review, state officials identified exactly one confirmed instance of noncitizen registration and zero instances of noncitizen voting. Multiple states that have begun using federal citizenship verification databases have found that only 0.04 percent of voter verification cases are returned as potential noncitizens, and even many of those turn out to be false positives or cases where voters had already provided proof of citizenship.

The evidence base for the SAVE Act's sweeping changes simply does not exist. Courts have repeatedly found no evidence of fraud at a scale that would justify the burdens imposed by documentary proof requirements. What does exist is extensive evidence that such requirements prevent far more eligible citizens from voting than noncitizens.

### **The Historical Weight**

There is a particular cruelty in requiring the indigenous people of this continent to produce papers proving they belong here. Native Americans did not immigrate to the United States. They were here thousands of years before the United States existed. Their citizenship was not always recognized by the federal government, but their presence on this land predates every document, every institution, every office that would now demand proof of their right to participate in governance.

The history of Native American voting rights is a history of exclusion followed by hard-won inclusion followed by new mechanisms of exclusion. State laws barring Native Americans from voting persisted until 1957 in some jurisdictions. Literacy tests, poll taxes, and residency requirements were deployed against Native voters in patterns mirroring their use against Black Americans in the Jim Crow South. Even after the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Native communities have been forced to litigate repeatedly for access to polling places, for recognition of their tribal IDs, and for basic accommodation of reservation addresses that do not conform to state address formats.

The SAVE Act picks up this thread. It does not employ the explicit language of disenfranchisement. It speaks instead of election integrity and documentation requirements. But the effect would be familiar. Native voters would once again face barriers that other Americans do not, barriers rooted in the failure of federal policy to accommodate the structural realities of tribal sovereignty and reservation life.

### **What Happens Next**

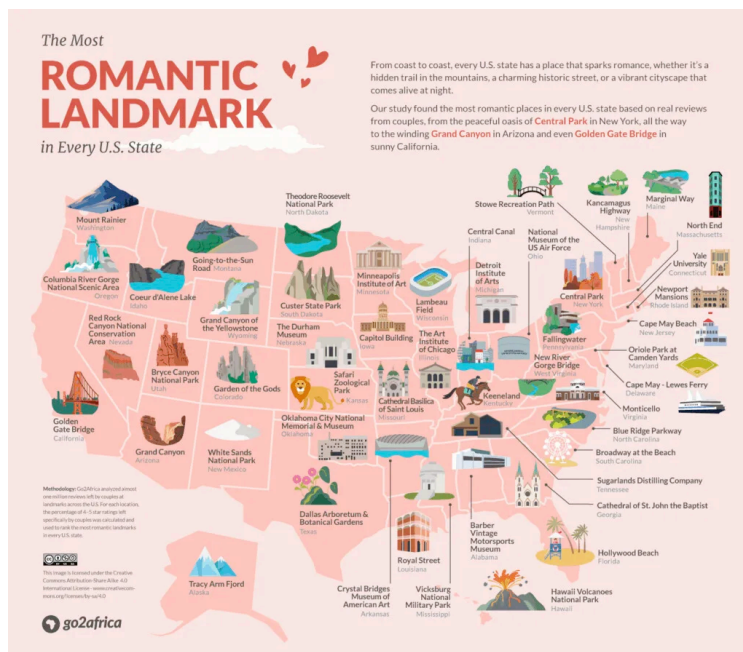
The SAVE Act is currently being debated in the Senate. Republican leadership has expressed strong support. A few Republican senators, including Murkowski, have announced opposition based on the bill's impact on their constituents. Democratic senators have introduced amendments that would soften the law's effects on Native communities, but the path forward remains uncertain.

If passed, the legislation would take effect immediately, creating chaos in the months before the November 2026 midterm elections. States would need to implement new documentation requirements, election officials would need retraining, and millions of voters would need to produce papers they may not possess.

For Native American communities, the consequences could be severe. The Native American Rights Fund has warned that the legislation would “annihilate the Native vote turnout all across America.” Whether this outcome is intended or merely incidental, the effect would be the same: the first Americans, once again, last in line to vote.

**Sources**

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## **A little review: The Republican “Contract with America” (1994)**

As Republican Members of the House of Representatives and as citizens seeking to join that body we propose not just to change its policies, but even more important, to restore the bonds of trust between the people and their elected representatives.

That is why, in this era of official evasion and posturing, we offer instead a detailed agenda for national renewal, a written commitment with no fine print.

This year’s election offers the chance, after four decades of one-party control, to bring to the House a new majority that will transform the way Congress works. That historic change would be the end of government that is too big, too intrusive, and too easy with the public’s money. It can be the beginning of a Congress that respects the values and shares the faith of the American family.

Like Lincoln, our first Republican president, we intend to act “with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right.” To restore accountability to Congress. To end its cycle of scandal and disgrace. To make us all proud again of the way free people govern themselves.

On the first day of the 104th Congress, the new Republican majority will immediately pass the following major reforms, aimed at restoring the faith and trust of the American people in their government:

FIRST, require all laws that apply to the rest of the country also apply equally to the Congress; SECOND, select a major, independent auditing firm to conduct a comprehensive audit of Congress for waste, fraud or abuse; THIRD, cut the number of House committees, and cut committee staff by one-third; FOURTH, limit the terms of all committee chairs; FIFTH, ban the casting of proxy votes in committee; SIXTH, require committee meetings to be open to the public; SEVENTH, require a three-fifths majority vote to pass a tax increase; EIGHTH, guarantee an honest accounting of our Federal Budget by implementing zero base-line budgeting.

Thereafter, within the first 100 days of the 104th Congress, we shall bring to the House Floor the following bills, each to be given full and open debate, each to be given a clear and fair vote and each to be immediately available this day for public inspection and scrutiny.

### **1. THE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT:**

A balanced budget/tax limitation amendment and a legislative line-item veto to restore fiscal responsibility to an out-of-control Congress, requiring them to live under the same budget constraints as families and businesses.

### **2. THE TAKING BACK OUR STREETS ACT:**

An anti-crime package including stronger truth-in-sentencing, “good faith” exclusionary rule exemptions, effective death penalty provisions, and cuts in social spending from this summer’s “crime” bill to fund prison construction and additional law enforcement to keep people secure in their neighborhoods and kids safe in their schools.

### 3. THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT:

Discourage illegitimacy and teen pregnancy by prohibiting welfare to minor mothers and denying increased AFDC for additional children while on welfare, cut spending for welfare programs, and enact a tough two-years-and-out provision with work requirements to promote individual responsibility.

### 4. THE FAMILY REINFORCEMENT ACT:

Child support enforcement, tax incentives for adoption, strengthening rights of parents in their children's education, stronger child pornography laws, and an elderly dependent care tax credit to reinforce the central role of families in American society.

### 5. THE AMERICAN DREAM RESTORATION ACT:

A \$500 per child tax credit, begin repeal of the marriage tax penalty, and creation of American Dream Savings Accounts to provide middle-class tax relief.

### 6. THE NATIONAL SECURITY RESTORATION ACT:

No U.S. troops under U.N. command and restoration of the essential parts of our national security funding to strengthen our national defense and maintain our credibility around the world.

### 7. THE SENIOR CITIZENS FAIRNESS ACT:

Raise the Social Security earnings limit which currently forces seniors out of the work force, repeal the 1993 tax hikes on Social Security benefits and provide tax incentives for private long-term care insurance to let Older Americans keep more of what they have earned over the years.

### 8. THE JOB CREATION AND WAGE ENHANCEMENT ACT:

Small business incentives, capital gains cut and indexation, neutral cost recovery, risk assessment/cost-benefit analysis, strengthening the Regulatory Flexibility Act and unfunded mandate reform to create jobs and raise worker wages.

### 9. THE COMMON SENSE LEGAL REFORM ACT:

"Loser pays" laws, reasonable limits on punitive damages and reform of product liability laws to stem the endless tide of litigation.

### 10. THE CITIZEN LEGISLATURE ACT:

A first-ever vote on term limits to replace career politicians with citizen legislators.

Further, we will instruct the House Budget Committee to report to the floor and we will work to enact additional budget savings, beyond the budget cuts specifically included in the legislation described above, to ensure that the Federal budget deficit will be less than it would have been without the enactment of these bills.

Respecting the judgment of our fellow citizens as we seek their mandate for reform, we hereby pledge our names to this Contract with America.

## **Full text of "Project 2025 Mandate For Leadership"**

[https://archive.org > stream > 2025\\_MandateForLeadersh...](https://archive.org/stream/2025_MandateForLeadersh...)

*Many people focus their ire on one person.....no man (believe it or not) is an island an this document presents the hundreds who developed and now administer the 2025 plan.*

### **Extract: A PROMISE TO AMERICA                      Kevin D. Roberts, PhD**

Forty-four years ago, the United States and the conservative movement were in dire straits. Both had been betrayed by the Washington establishment and were uncertain whom to trust. Both were internally splintered and strategically adrift. Worse still, at that moment of acute vulnerability and division, we found ourselves besieged by existential adversaries, foreign and domestic. The late 1970s were by any measure a historic low point for America and the political coalition dedicated to preserving its unique legacy of human flourishing and freedom.

Today, America and the conservative movement are enduring an era of division and danger akin to the late 1970s. Now, as then, our political class has been discredited by wholesale dishonesty and corruption. Look at America under the ruling and cultural elite today: Inflation is ravaging family budgets, drug overdose deaths continue to escalate, and children suffer the toxic normalization of transgenderism with drag queens and pornography invading their school libraries. Overseas, a totalitarian Communist dictatorship in Beijing is engaged in a strategic, cultural, and economic Cold War against America's interests, values, and people—all while globalist elites in Washington awaken only slowly to that growing threat. Moreover, low-income communities are drowning in addiction and government dependence.

Contemporary elites have even repurposed the worst ingredients of 1970s “radical chic” to build the totalitarian cult known today as “The Great Awakening.” And now, as then, the Republican Party seems to have little understanding about what to do. Most alarming of all, the very moral foundations of our society are in peril.

Yet students of history will note that, notwithstanding all those challenges, the late 1970s proved to be the moment when the political Right unified itself and the country and led the United States to historic political, economic, and global victories.

The Heritage Foundation is proud to have played a small but pivotal role in that story. It was in early 1979—amid stagflation, gas lines, and the Red Army's invasion of Afghanistan, the nadir of Jimmy Carter's days of malaise—that Heritage launched the Mandate for Leadership project. We brought together hundreds of conservative scholars and academics across the conservative movement. Together, this team created a 20-volume, 3,000-page governing handbook containing more than 2,000 conservative policies to reform the federal government and rescue the American people from Washington dysfunction. It was a promise from the conservative movement to the country—confident, specific, and clear.

**Mandate for Leadership was published in January 1981**—the same month Ronald Reagan was sworn into his presidency. By the end of that year, more than 60 percent of its recommendations had become policy—and Reagan was on his way to ending stagflation, reviving American confidence and prosperity, and winning the Cold War.

The bad news today is that our political establishment and cultural elite have once again driven America toward decline. The good news is that we know the way out even though the challenges today are not what they were in the 1970s. Conservatives should be confident that we can rescue our kids, reclaim our culture, revive our economy, and defeat the anti-American Left—at home and abroad. We did it before and will do it again.

PROMISE #1: RESTORE THE FAMILY AS THE CENTERPIECE OF AMERICAN LIFE AND PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

PROMISE #2: DISMANTLE THE ADMINISTRATIVE STATE AND RETURN SELF-GOVERNANCE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

PROMISE #3: DEFEND OUR NATION’S SOVEREIGNTY, BORDERS, AND BOUNTY AGAINST GLOBAL THREATS.

PROMISE #4 SECURE OUR GOD-GIVEN INDIVIDUAL RIGHT TO ENJOY “THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY.”

*The report is a textbook-worthy review of the US Administrative structure. Each Department is discussed, office by office, including the authors’ interpretation of each’s history and charge. Then goals for each are laid out. Each report contains an extensive index which provides a map of developing the perspective.*

*I have included the DOI/BIA which is only the FIRST reading one should do. Needless to say, review of the Department’s other agencies and “plans” that intersect (or counter) make for some “stimulating” information.*

*As you read, remember what is here is only extracts and that Deb Haaland was the DOI Secy for President Biden.*

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR by William Perry Pendley**

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) oversees, manages, and protects the nation’s natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors the nation’s trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities.

## **AGENCY OVERVIEW**

DOI’s purview encompasses more than 500 million acres of federal lands, including national parks and national wildlife refuges; 700 million acres of sub-surface minerals; 1.7 billion acres

of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS); 23 percent of the nation's energy; water in 17 western states; and trust responsibilities for 566 Indian tribes and Alaska Natives. DOI's 2024 budget request totals \$18.9 billion, an increase of \$2 billion, or 12 percent, more than the 2023 enacted level. The budget also provides an estimated \$12.6 billion in permanent funding in 2024. In 2024, DOI will generate receipts of \$19.6 billion.

A "Home Department" had been considered in 1789 and urged by Presidents over the decades until DOI's creation in 1849. The variety of its early responsibilities—the Indian Bureau, the General Land Office, the Bureau of Pensions, and the Patent Office, among others—earned it various nicknames, including "Great Miscellany," "hydra-headed monster," and "Mother of Departments." Its mission became more focused on natural resources with the rise of the conservation movement in the early 20th century; however, it kept its historic (since the days of the Founding Fathers) role as overseer of vast working landscapes involving grazing, logging, mining, oil, and gas and, with the Bureau of Reclamation in 1902, as the nation's dam builder. Today, DOI has 70,000 employees in approximately 2,400 locations with offices across the United States, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States.

Historically, DOI operated in a bipartisan manner consistent with the laws enacted by Congress pursuant to its powers under the Property Clause." Thus, DOI fulfilled its statutory responsibilities in a manner that ensured the ability of western states, counties, and communities to be sustained by both economic and recreational activities on neighboring federal lands, especially given that in some rural western counties, federal lands constituted 50, 60, 70, 80—even 90 percent of the county's landmass.\*

That ended with the Administration of President Jimmy Carter, who, beholden to environmental groups that supported his election, adopted DOI policies consistent with their demands, much to the horror of western governors, most of whom were Democrats. President Ronald Reagan campaigned against this "War on the West," declared himself a "Sagebrush Rebel," and, on taking office,\* quelled the rebellion by reversing Carter Administration policies. President George H. W. Bush distanced himself from Reagan's western policies, committed to a "kinder and gentler America," and proclaimed his desire to be "the environmental President," which resulted in changes at the his Administration's DOI—again, much to the dismay of westerners.° President Bill Clinton resumed Carter's "War on the West," epitomized by his DOI's deploying of wolves into the states bordering Yellowstone National Park; the decreed death of a world-class mine in Montana; and the designation of a vast national monument in Utah over the objections of Utah leaders—but with the support of the Hollywood elite.®

Although Texas Governor George W. Bush and former Wyoming Representative Dick Cheney (R-WY) campaigned in 2000 against Clinton's worst outrages, including the Utah monument, there was no significant ratcheting back of DOI policies that were either objected to by westerners or contrary to the express provisions of federal statutes. President Barack Obama's DOI resumed the anti-economic federal lands policies activated by Carter and amplified by

Clinton; however, Obama's DOT's antipathy to oil and gas activity on federal lands as mandated by Congress could not have come at a worse time.

After the demonstrated success of fracking on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) acreage in Wyoming in 1993, the fracking revolution soon swept the nation, yielding massive discoveries on state and private land from coast to coast, but not, thanks to Obama, on western federal lands.\* President Donald Trump, on the other hand, immediately ordered his DOI to comply with federal law, conduct congressionally mandated lease sales, and seek to achieve energy dominance or independence.

Thanks in part to the success of oil and gas operations on federal land in the West, the United States achieved energy security for the first time since 1957 in 2019.°

President Joe Biden's DOI, as is well documented, abandoned all pretense of complying with federal law regarding federally owned oil and gas resources. Not since the Administration of President Harry S. Truman—prior to creation of the OCS oil and gas program—have fewer federal leases been issued.!°

At DOI, not since the Reagan Administration was the radical environmental agenda (first implemented by Carter, resumed by Clinton, and revitalized by Obama) rolled back as substantially as it was by President Trump. Trump's DOI change affected not only oil and gas leasing, as noted above, but all statutory responsibilities of its various agencies, bureaus, and offices. Thus, whether the statutory mandate was to promote economic activity, to ensure and expand recreational opportunities, or to protect valuable natural resources, including, for example, parks, wilderness areas, national monuments, and wild and scenic areas, efforts were expended, barriers were removed, and career employees were aided in the accomplishment of those missions.

Unfortunately, Biden's DOI is at war with the department's mission, not only when it comes to DOI's obligation to develop the vast oil and gas and coal resources for which it is responsible, but also as to its statutory mandate, for example, to manage much of federal land overseen by the BLM pursuant to "multiple use" and "sustained yield" principles." Instead, Biden's DOI believes most BLM land should be placed off-limits to all economic and most recreational uses. Worse yet, Biden's DOI not only refuses to adhere to the statutes enacted by Congress as to how the lands under its jurisdiction are managed, but it also insists on implementing a vast regulatory regime (for which Congress has not granted authority) and overturning, by unilateral regulatory action, congressional acts that set forth the productive economic uses permitted on DOI-managed federal land.

## **BUDGET STRUCTURE**

At \$18.9 billion, DOI's 2024 proposed budget is small relative to many other federal agencies. On the other side of the ledger, the DOI forecasts it will generate more than \$19.6 billion in

“offsetting receipts” from oil and gas royalties, timber and grazing fees, park user fees, and land sales, among other sources. Most of the proposed allocations are divided among nine bureaus.

**Bureau of Indian Affairs.** Fulfills Indian trust responsibilities on behalf of 566 Indian tribes; supports natural resource education, law enforcement, and social service programs delivered by tribes; operates 182 elementary and secondary schools and dormitories and 29 tribally controlled community colleges, universities, and post-secondary schools.

**Bureau of Land Management.** Manages and conserves resources for 245 million acres of public land and 700 million acres of subsurface federal mineral estate, including energy and mineral development, forest management, timber and biomass production, and wild horse and burro management.

### **AMERICAN INDIANS AND U.S. TRUST RESPONSIBILITY**

The Biden Administration has breached its federal trust responsibilities to American Indians. This is unconscionable. Specifically, the Biden Administration’s war on domestically available fossil fuels and mineral sources has been devastating. To wit:

The ability of American Indians and tribal governments to develop their abundant oil and gas resources has been severely hampered, depriving them of the revenue and profits to which they are entitled during a time of increasing worldwide energy prices, forcing American Indians—who are among the poorest Americans—to choose between food and fuel.

The Indian nations with significant coal resources have some of the highest quality and cleanest-burning coal in the world, but the Biden Administration has sought to destroy the market for their coal by eliminating coal-fired electricity in the country and to prevent the transport of their coal for sale internationally. Meanwhile, the Biden Administration, at great public expense, artificially boosted the demand for electric vehicles, which, because of their remote locations, the absence of increased electricity demands for charging electric vehicles nearby, and the distances to be traveled, are not a choice for Indian communities.

A significant percentage of critical minerals needed by the United States is on Indian lands, but the Biden Administration has actively discouraged development of critical mineral mining projects on Indian lands rather than assisting in their advancement.

Despite Indian nations having primary responsibility for their lands and environment and responsibility for the safety of their communities, the Biden Administration is reversing efforts to put Indian nations in charge of environmental regulation on their own lands.

Moreover, Biden Administration policies, including those of the DOL, have disproportionately impacted American Indians and Indian nations.

By its failure to secure the border, the Biden Administration has robbed Indian nations on or near the Mexican border of safe and secure communities while permitting them to be swamped by a tide of illegal drugs, particularly fentanyl.

When ending COVID protocols at Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools, Biden's DOI failed to ensure an accurate accounting of students returning from school shutdowns, which presents a significant danger to the families that trust their children to that federal agency.

The BIEFs are not reporting student academic assessment data to ensure parents and the larger tribal communities know their children are learning and are receiving a quality education.

The new Administration must take the following actions to fulfill the nation's trust responsibilities to American Indians and Indian nations:

End the war on fossil fuels and domestically available minerals and facilitate their development on lands owned by Indians and Indian nations.

End federal mandates and subsidies of electric vehicles.

Restore the right of tribal governments to enforce environmental regulation on their lands.

Secure the nation's border to protect the sovereignty and safety of tribal lands.

Overhaul BIE schools to put parents and their children first.

Finally, the new Administration should seek congressional reauthorization of the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations,<sup>®</sup> which provided a \$1.9 billion Trust Land Consolidation Fund to purchase fractional interests in trust or restricted land from willing sellers at fair market value, but which sunsets November 24, 2022. New funds should come from the Great American Outdoors Act.

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**“Tripped Up”** **Environmental Impact**  
**Finalist** **Credit: Jacqueline Schletter / The Nature Photography Contest 2025**