



LUMMI INDIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL
2665 KWINA ROAD • BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON 98226 • (360) 312-2000

Submitted via e-mail to: Sam.Gottlieb@mail.house.gov

May 16th, 2025

Representative Rick Larsen
Rep. Rick Larsen, WA-02
2163 Rayburn HOB |
Washington, D.C.

Re: Endorsement of Rep. Larsen's bill: End Fentanyl Trafficking with Local Task Forces Act

Dear Representative Larsen

On behalf of the Lummi Nation, a sovereign government recognized under the Constitution of the United States and a signatory of the Point Elliot Treaty of 1855, I write to formally endorse a proposed Bill drafted for the 119th Congress in the House of Representatives, known as the 'End Fentanyl Trafficking with Local Task forces Act'.

We recognize the Bill aims to establish essential grants to combat opioid trafficking. This legislation would establish a dedicated federal funding stream for multi-jurisdictional drug task forces (MJTFs) to address opioid trafficking in Washington State and across the country. This legislation is urgently needed. MJTFs represent partnerships across local law enforcement agencies to share staff, information, and resources, and collaborative work plays a pivotal role in fighting the opioid epidemic. While individual law enforcement agencies have been essential to address the flow of opioids, their reach is limited by local resources and jurisdictional boundaries. We concur, opioid distribution is not isolated to any single area, district, or police agency. Traffickers do exploit this decentralization in law enforcement by straddling jurisdictional boundaries, including those between Tribal and non-Tribal law enforcement agencies, which complicates investigations into drug trades and further stretches limited police resources. The End Fentanyl Trafficking with Local Task Forces Act would help fill these gaps and enable law enforcement agencies to better coordinate their efforts across jurisdictional boundaries to combat trafficking.

In closing, we echo what was stated at the gathering of Tribes in 2023 at the first Washington State Tribal Opioid Summit as this goes to the heart of this opioid crisis and our hope for the future.

'We are self-determined people; we know how to care for ourselves. When provided adequate support and resources, we can address this drug epidemic in a way that promotes our culture, teachings, and way of life. Our vision is that one day we will heal ourselves from the atrocities that have happened to us.'

Thay one day, we will break the cycles of trauma, and our children and grandchildren will grow up unhindered by the negative aspects of the world'.

The proposed Bill represents another step toward unity to address the drug epidemic and the development of effective solutions for the betterment of all people.

The Lummi Nation thanks you Representative Larsen for all you do to help address the opioid crisis we face in Washington State and across our Nation and your commitment to help bring our communities to a better place. Please contact us if you require additional information. We can be reached as follows: Anthony Hillaire Chairman Lummi Nation at AnthonyH@lummi-nsn.gov and 360-312-2000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Hillaire". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anthony Hillaire Chairman
Lummi Indian Business Council

CC: todd@capitolhillpolicygroup.com
Jessica.Corbman@mail.house.gov