

Chairwoman Brittney Miller

Interim Committee on Reapportionment and Redistricting
401 S Carson St
Carson City, NV 89701

Subject: Nevadans Count - Public Input Meeting on Tribal Land

Dear Chairwoman Miller and Committee Members:

I am a citizen of the Walker River Paiute Tribe, which is located in Mineral County. I am also an undergraduate student at UNLV, and I will be graduating in 2023 with a BS in Computational Physics.

I am proud to share that my Tribal Nation, Walker River Paiute Tribe (WRPT), which is currently split between 2 Assembly and 2 State Senate Districts, has one of the highest concentrations of Native Americans in the state. We also represent the 2nd highest population in Mineral County and the highest voter turnout among Tribal communities in 2020.

Earlier this month, the Nevada Legislature was celebrated as one of the most diverse bodies in the nation. But when we take a closer look at the racial makeup of this body, there is not a single Native American elected official. This is quite disappointing to know, especially since this same body passed the Native American Tuition Waiver earlier this year.

In the Silver State, there are 27 federally-recognized tribes. That's 27 different cultures, languages, and traditions. Chairwoman Miller and committee members, it's critical that this body meets with tribal communities where they're at. That means hosting a public input meeting on tribal lands, perhaps even in my Tribal Nation, to understand our unique priorities and needs better.

It's easy to read about and assume our priorities and needs, but you will never truly understand what they are until this body holds a public input meeting on tribal land. In this meeting, you might hear many Natives discuss the importance of ancestral land because some folks may still utilize them for hunting, herbal medicine, or rely on natural resources.

Thank you,

Ryan Boone

Citizen of Walker River Paiute Tribe
Former President of UNLV Native American Student Association