



THE PAIUTE INDIAN TRIBE OF UTAH

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PRESS RELEASE
RE: FEDERAL SHUTDOWN

January 8, 2019

The Federal Shutdown will have everlasting effects on Indian Country and America if it continues. The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah is a government agency that relies on federal dollars to sustain. Federal dollars that are our inherent right as Sovereign Nations that the United States Government agreed to uphold in its trust responsibility to tribes.

The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah is currently seeing effects with unfulfilled technical assistance. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Services, Housing and Urban Development, Environmental Protection Agencies and Bureau of Land Management have no staff working to assist tribes. As recent as yesterday, submitting grants on grants.gov has been an issue because no one is currently working to correct any uploading errors.

Currently, we are able to sustain and are not furloughing any of our employees. We know the direct impact it will have not just on our local reservation communities, but our surrounding communities if we have to start furloughing employees. Currently, The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah owns and operates FourPoints Health, federally qualified health centers, that service the underserved in providing adequate affordable healthcare and discount pharmacy. If we close our clinics due to non-funding, it will impact the greater community.

The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah has 65 employees that live in the greater communities of Iron, Washington, Sevier, and Millard Counties. The federal dollars that we receive go into our greater community's economies, on the grander scale, if the shutdown continues it will have an everlasting effect on our economy. I would hope that our elected officials are able to pass a budget resolution that would remedy this issue. The only people that are hurting are average Americans. We, currently have tribal members that work for the federal government that are unsure of their financial future.

Sincerely,

Tamra Borchardt-Slayton
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
Tribal Chairwoman