

## Senate Indian Affairs Committee

### **Business Meeting to Consider Several Bills**

**5 March 2025**

**Summary:** The committee took action on more than 20 bills, which covered a number of issue areas impacting Tribal nations and citizens. As far as Tribal agriculture and nutrition-related issues, two bills may be of relevance:

#### **Highlights:**

- [S.620](#), Veterinary Services to Improve Public Health in Rural Communities Act – sponsored by Sen. Murkowski, the legislation seeks to provide public health veterinary services to Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, specifically focusing on rabies prevention.
- [S.719](#), Tribal Forest Protection Act Amendments Act of 2025, also sponsored by Sen. Murkowski, seeks to improve the Tribal Forest Protection Act through improved definitions and specifics of the lands impacted.

[Sen. Lisa Murkowski](#) (R-AK) discussed the progress of several bills important to Native communities, covering public health, safety, forestry, and water rights. She emphasized the significance of Indian water rights settlements, which provide safe, reliable water supplies and improve public health and economic growth. However, these settlements are costly due to the infrastructure needed. SEN. Murkowski also highlighted legislation on Tribal forestry, public health veterinary services, and a commission on Indian boarding school policies.

[Sen. Brian Schatz](#) (D-HI) and [Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto](#) (D-NV) also made brief remarks supporting the bills and the bipartisan efforts to address issues in Indian country. The Committee then proceeded to adopt the agenda items unanimously.

[H.R.165](#), Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act

[S.105](#), Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act

[S.240](#), Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Amendments Act of 2025

[S.241](#), Northern Montana Water Security Act of 2025

[S.390](#), BADGES for Native Communities Act

[S.546](#), Technical Correction to the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation Water Rights Settlement Act of 2025

[S.550](#), A bill to provide for the equitable settlement of certain Indian land disputes regarding land in Illinois, and for other purposes.

[S.562](#), Rio San José and Rio Jemez Water Settlements Act of 2025

[S.563](#), Ohkay Owingeh Rio Chama Water Rights Settlement Act of 2025

[S.564](#), Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2025

[S.565](#), Navajo Nation Rio San José Stream System Water Rights Settlement Act of 2025

[S.612](#), A bill to amend the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act to authorize grants to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations, and for other purposes.

[S.620](#), Veterinary Services to Improve Public Health in Rural Communities Act

[S.621](#), A bill to accept the request to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota at the request of that Community, and for other purposes.

[S.622](#), Leech Lake Reservation Restoration Amendments Act of 2025

[S.632](#), IHS Workforce Parity Act of 2025

[S.637](#), Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Amendments Act of 2025

[S.640](#), Technical Corrections to the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act, Taos Pueblo Indian Water Rights Settlement Act, and Aamodt Litigation Settlement Act

[S.642](#), Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Land Claim Settlement Act of 2025

[S.643](#), A bill to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to address the hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community, and for other purposes.

[S.673](#), Miccosukee Reserved Area Amendments Act

[S.689](#), Tule River Tribe Reserved Water Rights Settlement Act of 2025

[S.719](#), Tribal Forest Protection Act Amendments Act of 2025

[S.723](#), Tribal Trust Land Homeownership Act of 2025

[S.748](#), A bill to reaffirm the applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act to the Lytton Rancheria of California, and for other purposes.

[S.761](#), Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act of 2025