



Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

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September 26, 2025

Representative Jeff Hurd
1641 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Lauren Boebert
1713 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator John W. Hickenlooper
315 Hart Senator Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Michael F. Bennet
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Federal Government Shutdown

Dear Senate and Congress members:

I am writing on behalf of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and its concern regarding the impending federal government shutdown. As I know you are all aware this shutdown would be catastrophic to the Tribe, the functioning of its government and services to all its community members. The Tribe relies on federal funding through contracts for many of its essential services to the Tribal members and the services they receive. Services from elders' services, head start programs, food assistance for needy families, and the Tribe's charter school nutrition could all become affected if funding is halted for any period of time.

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe receives its law enforcement from the BIA for its reservation in all three states, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico. BIA law enforcement is currently underfunded and short staffed should a shutdown result or cause a delay in payment, or a possible furlough, it could leave the Tribe in a dire situation of no law enforcement services provided within its communities.

If federal funding should stop the Tribe could have to fill in for making sure essential services are provided to its communities and this won't only have a current affect but a lasting affect as once a shutdown occurs all contracts stop. As we all know this causes an on-going delay throughout the year, even after the government resumes functioning, and the Tribe is often the last to receive funding it is owed.

On behalf of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe I urge and ask for your support in approving a short term funding extension for the federal government to avoid a federal governmental shutdown. If the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is able to provide support to you in getting the extension approved please reach out to the Tribe and it will assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Manuel Heart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "H".

Manuel Heart

Chairman

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe