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April 15, 2021

Hon. Dr. Miguel Cardona U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Cardona:

I am writing in support of the Yurok Tribe's application for U.S. Department of Education Promise Neighborhood funds to build a regional five-year effort for a Cradle-School-Career Pathway Project in rural Del Norte County. The Yurok Tribe would lead the comprehensive effort through an impressive partnership with the Del Norte Unified School District, the Del Norte Child Care Council, First 5 of Del Norte County, the Northern California Indian Development Council, and others.

The project takes a regional approach to improving education and support systems for all students in the public schools of Del Norte County. Currently, Del Norte County is an economically disadvantaged community, with many students experiencing limited access to early education, nutritional challenges, difficulty accessing technology, and low attendance and graduation rates.

As the largest tribe in California, the Yurok Tribe has a deep interest in taking a comprehensive approach to identifying and filling gaps in the Del Norte County education system. Promise Neighborhood funding will allow the partners in this project to ensure that children are healthy, ready to enter the educational system with the tools they need to graduate from middle school and high school, enter college, and embark on careers that will support them and their local communities and tribes.

Please give the Yurok Tribe's application for Promise Grant funding your full and fair consideration. If you have any questions, please contact my District Representative John Driscoll at (707)599-0697 or john.driscoll@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely

JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress

Cc: Yurok Tribe Chairman Joseph James, jjames@yuroktribe.nsn.us

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