

ECWS24
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WINTER SESSION
FEBRUARY 12 - 15, 2024



National Congress of American Indians Executive Council Winter Session 2024

Full Agenda — DRAFT

Last Updated: February 5, 2024

State of Indian Nations Speech

Location:

*The Warner Theatre
513 13th St NW
Washington, DC 20004*

Executive Council Winter Session

Location:

*The Westin—Downtown DC
999 9th Street NW
Washington, DC 20001*

Click to Jump to Specific Date:

[Sunday, February 11, 2024](#)

[Monday, February 12, 2024](#)

[Tuesday, February 13, 2024](#)

[Wednesday, February 14, 2024](#)

[Thursday, February 15, 2024](#)



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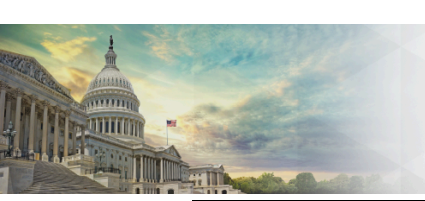
Sunday, February 11		
TIME (EST)	EVENT	ROOM
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration Open Rules & Credentials Open	Potomac Registration Area
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	NCAI Fund Board Meeting	Anacostia D <i>Closed to Public</i>
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	NCAI Executive Committee Meeting	Anacostia D <i>Closed to Public</i>



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Monday, February 12		
TIME (EST)	EVENT	ROOM
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration Open Rules & Credentials Open	Potomac Registration Area
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	<p>VAWA Task Force <i>The Task Force on Violence Against Women (VAWA) serves as a unified tribal voice opposed to violent crimes perpetrated against American Indian and Alaska Native women. Today task force members will highlight tribal programs that prevent and address violence against women in Indian Country, examine national and international violence against women policy work, and coordinate efforts to strengthen future reauthorizations of the Violence Against Women Act.</i></p> <p><i>Note: This Task Force will break to watch the State of Indian Nations address.</i></p>	Anacostia F Closed to Press
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<p>State of Indian Nations Address <i>National Congress of American Indians President Mark Macarro will deliver the annual State of Indian Nations Address. RSVP is required.</i></p> <p>-Youth Speech- Yanenowi Logan, <i>Co-President, NCAI Youth Commission</i> Caleb Dash, <i>Co-President, NCAI Youth Commission</i></p> <p>-State of Indian Nations Address- Mark Macarro, <i>President, National Congress of American Indians</i></p> <p>-Congressional Response Speech- Mary Peltola, <i>U.S. Representative—Alaska</i></p>	Warner Theater 513 13th St NW, Washington, DC 20004
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<p>State of Indian Nations Watch Party <i>Join other Executive Council Winter Session attendees to watch the State of Indian Nations address delivered by President Mark Macarro on the big screen</i></p>	Anacostia D



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11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	BREAK	
<p>Concurrent Sessions</p> <p><i>Please note that Concurrent Sessions are open and do not require registration for NCAI's Executive Council Winter Session. Additionally, while NCAI assists in the coordination of these sessions, NCAI is not involved in the specific subject matter covered in these sessions.</i></p>		
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	<p>FEMA Listening Session on Individual Assistance Rule Reform</p> <p><i>FEMA recently published an update to its Individual Assistance rule that streamline resources to all survivors, including tribal community members, when disasters strike. This listening session will be the first in a series of listening sessions and consultations to gather Tribal Nation input and ensure that tribal community members are able to access FEMA resources after a disaster strikes.</i></p>	Meeting Room 4
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	<p>White House Initiative Comprehensive Education Study—Listening session—<i>Tentative</i></p> <p><i>The White House Initiative will begin developing a comprehensive education study. This listening session will engage tribal leaders to get their input for priorities related to education.</i></p>	Anacostia E
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	<p>Update from the FCC</p> <p><i>The Federal Communications Commission will provide an update on our programs and initiatives and will be joined by members of the FCC's Broadband Data Task Force to provide more information on their work and current initiatives.</i></p>	Meeting Room 3
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	<p>Legislative Briefing for S.1723, the Truth and Healing Commission Bill</p> <p><i>The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) with special guests will provide an overview of the legislation, S.1723, a bill to establish a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act. The time is now for justice, truth, and healing.</i></p>	Anacostia D
<p>NCAI Task Force Sessions</p> <p><i>Please note that different Task Forces are also meeting on Tuesday (February 13) and Wednesday (February 14). Task Force and Working Group sessions are open and do not require registration for NCAI's Executive Council Winter Session.</i></p>		



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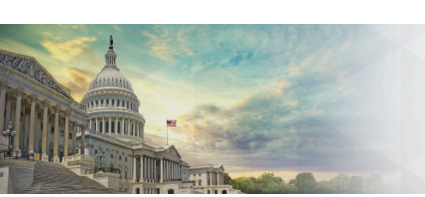
<p>2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Climate Action Task Force <i>The working mission of the Climate Action Task Force is to “document, inform, and support the climate action efforts of Tribal Nations and native organizations, and identify and advocate for policies and funding designed to empower their ability to engage in effective, sustainable climate action.” This task force meeting will provide an overview of administrative and congressional updates to improve and expand federal support for tribal climate actions.</i></p>	<p>Meeting Room 5</p>
<p>2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Federal Recognition Task Force <i>The Federal Recognition Task Force was established to address the interests of all tribal nations, both federally and non-federally recognized, regarding changes to the tribal acknowledgement process.</i></p>	<p>Meeting Room 9</p>
<p>2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Joint IGA-NCAI Task Force <i>The Joint Indian Gaming Association (IGA) and National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Task Force was reinstated this year to discuss the current legal threats to tribal sovereignty and formulate responses to defend against continued attacks on sovereignty, particularly in the courts.</i></p>	<p>Meeting Room 6</p>
<p>2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Transportation Task Force <i>The NCAI-ITA Joint Transportation Task Force is focused on building a unified advocacy approach to tribal transportation development and legislative reauthorization to promote safety and prosperity in tribal communities and to ensure the United States upholds its government-to-government relationship with Tribal Nations.</i></p>	<p>Meeting Room 8</p>
<p>5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Working with Congress 101 <i>Get the most out of your Congressional meetings by attending this training session for tribal leaders. Participants will learn proven strategies for how to have effective Congressional meetings. Information will also be shared about key Congressional leadership changes, priorities for the 118th Congress, and educating new members of Congress about tribal governments.</i></p>	<p>Meeting Room 4 <i>Closed to Press</i></p>
<p>6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Understanding the Federal Budget <i>An overview of how the federal budget process and its importance to Indian Country.</i></p>	<p>Meeting Room 4 <i>Closed to Press</i></p>



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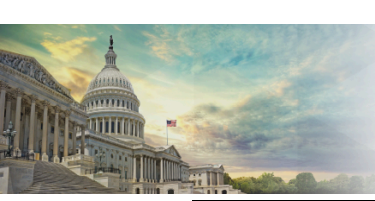
<p>7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>VAWA Task Force 20th Anniversary Reception <i>Join NCAI and NIWRC on February 12, 2024, as we celebrate 20 years of our grassroots organizing to restore Tribal sovereignty and increase Native women's safety through the Violence Against Women Task Force and the Restoration Magazine. Light refreshments will be provided.</i></p>	<p>Potomac Ballroom</p>
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Tuesday, February 13		
TIME (EST)	EVENT	ROOM
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration Open Rules & Credentials Open	Potomac Registration Area
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	First Plenary Session	Potomac Ballroom
8:30	Call to Order and Welcome Mark Macarro, <i>President, National Congress of American Indians</i>	
8:35	Invocation	
8:40	President's Report Mark Macarro, <i>President, National Congress of American Indians</i>	
9:00	Executive Director's Report Larry Wright, Jr., <i>Executive Director, National Congress of American Indians</i>	
9:15	Treasury Update Lynn Malerba, <i>U.S. Treasurer</i>	
9:25	Small Business Administration Update Jackson Brossy, <i>Assistant Administrator, Office of Native American Affairs, Small Business Administration</i>	
9:35	State-Level Political Update Peggy Flanagan, <i>Lt. Governor, State of Minnesota</i>	
9:45	Congressional Update Brian Schatz, <i>U.S. Senator (HI) & Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs</i>	
10:00	Indian Affairs Update Bryan Newland, <i>Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior</i>	
10:30	Office of Management and Budget Update	



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	Shalanda Young, <i>Director, Office of Management and Budget</i>	
10:40	<p>Administration for Children and Families Update</p> <p>Patrice Kunesh, <i>Commissioner, Administration for Native American Affairs</i></p> <p>Rebecca Gaston, <i>Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth and Families</i></p>	
10:55	<p>Army Civil Works Update</p> <p>Michael Connor, <i>Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Department of the Army, Department of Defense</i></p>	
11:00	<p>Veterans Affairs Update</p> <p>Denis McDonough, <i>Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs</i></p>	
11:20	<p>Department of the Interior Update</p> <p><i>To Be Determined</i></p>	
11:35	<p>Department of Commerce Fireside Chat</p> <p><i>To Be Determined</i></p>	
11:55	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Mark Macarro, <i>President, National Congress of American Indians</i></p>	
<p>Concurrent Sessions</p> <p><i>Please note that Concurrent Sessions are open and do not require registration for NCAI's Executive Council Winter Session. Additionally, while NCAI assists in the coordination of these sessions, NCAI is not involved in the specific subject matter covered in these sessions.</i></p>		
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	<p>Tribal Needs for USACE Permitting—<i>Tentative</i></p> <p><i>The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is authorized to issue Nationwide Permits (NWP) for certain categories of activities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 that have no more than minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment. As USACE prepares for a new iteration of issuing NWPs in 2026, the agency invites you to participate in a tribal listening session to explore Tribal needs and considerations for USACE permitting as they relate to Tribal rights, treaty rights, Indian land and resources, and coordination with federal agencies. Tribal input will be critical for understanding what the existing challenges are</i></p>	Meeting Room 4



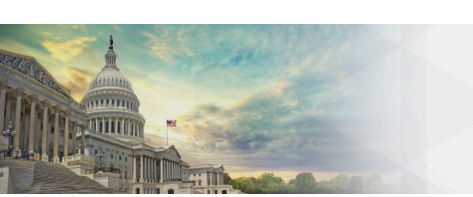
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	<p><i>and identify future opportunities for Tribal Nations for the development of NWP's or for the framework of developing a Tribal-specific NWP.</i></p>	
	<p>Listening Session to Inform Federal Agencies' Environmental Justice Strategic Plans—<i>Tentative</i> <i>Federal agencies are eager to engage Tribal leaders in the development of their Environmental Justice Strategic Plans pursuant to Executive Order 14096, Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All, which advances the Federal government's efforts to deliver real, measurable progress on environmental justice. The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) will also share how Executive Order 14096, signed by President Biden on April 21, 2023, recognizes that addressing Tribal concerns and respecting Tribal values, including the need to protect sacred sites and Tribal sovereignty, are critical to advancing environmental justice.</i></p> <p><i>Engagement with Tribes based on their expertise and unique interests is essential so that agency Environmental Justice Strategic Plans reflect Tribal priorities and recognize, honor, and advance Tribal sovereignty and Tribal cultural practices—including subsistence practices, ways of living, Indigenous Knowledge, data collection, research, and traditions. In this session, Federal agencies will seek to learn how their Environmental Justice Strategic Plans can most effectively reflect and support Tribal priorities. In addition, feedback will also be welcome on how the National Science and Technology Council's Environmental Justice Subcommittee can address relevant gaps in science, data, and research through its all-of-government research plan. Tribes will be given the option to submit additional feedback in writing after the session.</i></p>	<p>Meeting Room 5</p>
<p>3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>ACYF Federal Listening Session <i>The Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF) will hold a listening session to share its priorities. Discussion topics include ACYF rule making and opportunities to improve support for tribes.</i></p>	<p>Meeting Room 3</p>

NCAI Task Force Sessions

Please note that different Task Forces are also meeting on Monday (February 12) and Wednesday (February 14). Task Force and Working Group sessions are open and do not



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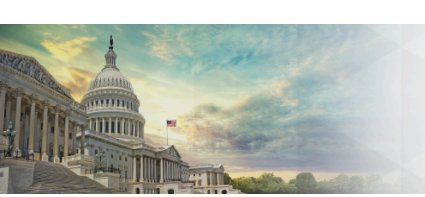
<p>2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Budget Task Force <i>The NCAI Budget Task Force is focused on discussing the Federal Government's budgets and appropriations processes. The Budget Task Force exists to identify and develop consensus strategies for advocacy on tribal budget priorities, as well as finding ways to overcome barriers to funding increases for tribal programs and to the implementation of federally funded programs in tribal communities.</i></p>	<p>Meeting Room 7</p>
<p>2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Peyote Working Group <i>The NCAI Peyote Task Force will discuss the current landscape of Peyote conservation and preservation. This task force will focus on barriers to American Indian Religious Freedom and challenges the Native American Church faces.</i></p>	<p>Meeting Room 8</p>
<p>2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>TANF Task Force <i>The NCAI Tribal TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) Task Force will discuss current tribal, Administrative, and Congressional priorities with the goal of improving the function of TANF programs for Tribal Nations across Indian Country. The TANF task force was established to support efforts to increase tribal authority to administer family support and work readiness programs to serve tribal children and families.</i></p>	<p>Meeting Room 9</p>
<p>2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Tax and Finance Task Force <i>Tax revenue is essential to help build healthy rural and regional economies. Join the NCAI Tax and Finance Task Force for an open meeting to discuss work in the fields of tax and finance in Indian Country. This Task Force has been charged with advancing tribal priorities on legislative and administrative tax and finance policy, developing solutions to dual taxation, facilitating tribal engagement with the U.S. Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee (TTAC), and sharing information regarding tribal-state tax agreements.</i></p>	<p>Meeting Room 6</p>
<p>5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>New Member Orientation <i>All members are invited to join us at this informative session on membership, committees, voting, and more.</i></p>	<p>Anacostia D</p>
<p>6:30 p.m. -</p>	<p>NCAI Youth Commission/CNAY Reception</p>	<p>Potomac Ballroom</p>



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8:30 p.m.		
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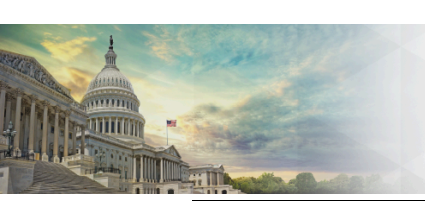


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Wednesday, February 14

TIME (EST)	EVENT	ROOM
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Second Plenary Session	Potomac Ballroom
8:30	<p>Call to Order Mark Macarro, <i>President, National Congress of American Indians</i></p> <p>Invocation <i>To Be Determined</i></p>	
8:35	<p>Executive Order 14112 Panel Discussion</p> <p>Elizabeth Carr, <i>Tribal Advisor to the Director, Office of Management and Budget</i></p> <p>Elizabeth Reese, <i>Senior Policy Advisor for Native Affairs, White House Domestic Policy Council</i></p> <p>Rose Petoskey, <i>Senior Advisor and Tribal Affairs Director, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs</i></p>	
9:00	<p>Federal Updates <i>To Be Determined</i></p>	
9:15	<p>Congressional Update Sharice Davids, <i>U.S. Representative—Kansas</i></p>	
9:25	<p>Federal Updates <i>To Be Determined</i></p>	
9:45	<p>Housing and Urban Development Update—<i>Tentative</i> Heidi Frechette, <i>Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Programs, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development</i></p>	
10:00	<p>Social Security Administration Updates Martin O’Malley, <i>Commissioner, Social Security Administration</i></p>	
10:10	<p>Census Update</p>	



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	Robert Santos, <i>Director, U.S. Census Bureau</i>	
10:30	Congressional Update Betty McCollum, <i>U.S. Representative—Minnesota</i>	
10:40	Congressional Update Hakeem Jeffries, <i>Minority Leader of the U.S House of Representatives & U.S. Representative—New York</i>	
10:50	USDA Fireside Chat Xochitl Torres Small, <i>Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture</i> Heather Dawn Thompson, <i>Director, Office of Tribal Relations, Department of Agriculture</i>	
11:15	Federal Updates <i>To Be Determined</i>	
11:45	Congressional Update Frank Pallone, <i>U.S. Representative—New Jersey</i>	
11:55	Closing Remarks Mark Macarro, <i>President, National Congress of American Indians</i>	
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	25th Annual NCAI Leadership Awards Banquet <i>The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) will honor five distinguished leaders in Indian Country at NCAI's 25th Annual Leadership Awards Ceremony at its Executive Council Winter Session (ECWS). The awards are presented annually to individuals, groups, or organizations who serve as champions in their respective fields.</i>	Potomac Ballroom
Concurrent Sessions		
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2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Listening Session: Capacity Building in the Energy Sector <i>Tribal Nations consistently cite capacity as a barrier to accessing energy funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. This session</i>	Anacostia D



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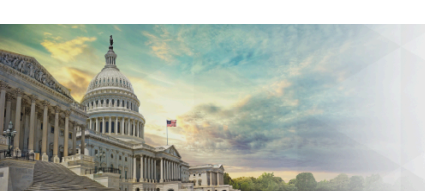
	<i>will be conducted by DOE's Office of Indian Energy to gather feedback on where and how capacity building investments could be most impactful for Indian Country.</i>	
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	<p>Seeking Cultural Wisdom: Promoting Suicide Prevention Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families</p> <p><i>Data shows that American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Veterans are one of the groups most highly impacted by suicide. SAMHSA is engaging in collaborative efforts to elevate Indigenous Knowledge and build on the strengths of AI/AN communities to create expanded technical assistance (TA) resources. These TA resources for promoting suicide prevention will be directed to Tribal governments and organizations. SAMHSA is collaborating with Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other Federal agencies in this effort. The purpose of the listening session is to seek out culturally centered subject matter expertise from NCAI members as we plan for activities in 2024 and beyond.</i></p>	Anacostia E
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	<p>Refocus on Agriculture: BIA's recent efforts</p> <p><i>IFAI and IAC Legal and Policy teams will present updates covering recent efforts from the Bureau of Indian Affairs including proposed draft language updating Agriculture Leasing regulations, agriculture impacts reflected in proposed updates to the Indian Arts and Crafts Act regulations, BIA's refocus on Agriculture Resource Management Plans, and related consultations and listening sessions. Open discussion, feedback and Q&A encouraged.</i></p>	Meeting Room 6
<p>NCAI Task Force Sessions</p> <p><i>Please note that different Task Forces are also meeting on Monday (February 12) and Tuesday (February 13). Task Force and Working Group sessions are open and do not require registration for NCAI's Executive Council Winter Session.</i></p>		
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	<p>Addiction Task Force</p> <p><i>Join the NCAI Addiction Task Force to discuss administrative and legislative priorities to increase access and improve the function of behavioral health and addiction programs at the tribal level. The Addiction Task Force continues to support efforts to advance education, treatment, preventative services, and public safety in tribal communities.</i></p>	Meeting Room 3
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	<p>Native Languages Task Force</p> <p><i>Developments in Native languages have taken place at the</i></p>	Anacostia F



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	<i>tribal, state, and federal policy levels. Tribal nations are taking innovative approaches to revitalizing their languages, and states are adopting Native languages as official state languages. This is an open session of the Native Languages Task Force to discuss Native American language protection and revitalization from tribal leaders' perspectives.</i>	
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Technology Task Force <i>The NCAI Technology Task Force will hold an open meeting to discuss work in the fields of technology and telecommunications in Indian Country. The Task Force is composed of tribal leadership, tribal telecommunications companies, Information Technology experts, entrepreneurs, and representatives from tribal organizations.</i>	Meeting Room 4
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Tribal Border Caucus <i>The NCAI Peyote Task Force will discuss the current landscape of Peyote conservation and preservation. This task force will focus on barriers to American Indian Religious Freedom and challenges the Native American Church faces.</i>	Meeting Room 5
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Hill Meeting Preparatory Sessions—<i>Tentative</i>	
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	NCAI Foundation Reception	



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Thursday, February 15

TIME (EST)	EVENT	ROOM
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Coffee and Congress—<i>Tentative</i> <i>More information forthcoming.</i>	Indian Gaming Association 224 2nd St SE, Washington, DC 20003
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Hill Meetings—<i>Tentative</i> <i>More information forthcoming.</i>	
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	<p>The 2nd Session of the 118th Congress: A View from Capitol Hill</p> <p><i>In between your Hill visits, please join Powers Law on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET for coffee and cookies in 628 Dirksen Senate Office Building, for a Panel Discussion on Fiscal Year 2024 budget and appropriations; pending Indian Tribal legislation; and expired or expiring statutory reauthorizations. Members of Congress have also been invited to give remarks and will be stopping by throughout the hour.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Paul Moorehead, <i>Principal, Powers Law</i></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pete Kirkham, <i>Red Maple Consulting</i> ● Aurene Martin, <i>President and Managing, Spirit Rock Consulting</i> ● Natasha John, <i>Director of Tribal Government Relations, Powers Law</i> <p><i>Please RSVP here.</i></p>	628 Dirksen Senate Office Building