



# BLACKFEET NATION

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July 21, 2022

Allison Ludtke, Policy Advisor Zack Strong,  
Senior Staff Attorney Animal Welfare Institute  
900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20003

**Re: Blackfeet Nation's Support for Proposed Legislation Establishing a Federal Beaver Conflict Mitigation Demonstration Program**

Dear Ms. Ludtke and Mr. Strong,

On behalf of the Blackfeet Nation, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to review Animal Welfare Institute's proposed legislation which would establish a federal pilot program to help tribes, states, agencies, landowners, conservation organizations, and other entities invest in effective, nonlethal solutions to minimize property damage caused by beavers. The \$1 million a year in funding this pilot program provides would be vital in efforts to reduce beaver conflicts across the nation. Whilst this is a great step forward, we believe additional funding would be required to adequately address these issues.

Beavers have been an integral part of Blackfeet culture since time immemorial. Currently the Blackfeet people occupy the Blackfeet Reservation which encompasses 1.5 million acres in northwestern Montana. The tribe also has access to off reservation areas for cultural, religious, and subsistence purposes due to off reservation treaty rights. This allows the Blackfeet people to help co-manage large areas of pristine wildlife habitat.

The Blackfeet Nation has a vested interest in beaver conservation and management. This has led to the creation of the Ksik Stakii Project, its goals include protecting beavers, restoring rivers, increasing public education, and increasing natural water storage to reduce vulnerability to flooding and drought in the face of climate change. The program also utilizes beaver mimicry as a management and restoration technique for improving fish and wildlife habitat.

The Blackfeet Nation is in full support of this legislation and commends the Animal Welfare Institute for their efforts in leading this initiative. The federal beaver conflict mitigation program would be essential in providing financial support for developing and evaluating nonlethal measures to reduce any conflicts or property damage caused by beavers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Iiff Scott Kipp Sr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "I" and "S".

Iiff "Scott" Kipp, Sr.  
Chairmen