

Marie Medina

Cultural Artist, Urban Native
Las Vegas, Nevada

Chairwoman Brittney Miller

Interim Committee on Reapportionment and Redistricting
401 S Carson St
Carson City, NV 89701

Subject: Nevadans Count - Public Input Meeting on Tribal Land

Dear Chairwoman Miller and Committee Members:

My name is Marie Medina, I am a citizen of Chickasaw Nation and descended from Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. My home is located in Las Vegas, Nevada. I have been a cultural artist of dance and the arts for over 20 years. I also am self-employed and work from home. During the pandemic, I have personally experienced how difficult it is to navigate life in the age of technology without internet connectivity. Although I live in an urban area, the infrastructure is not upgraded and I frequently have outages. My friends and family in other parts of the state that live in rural areas, and on Tribal lands have an even greater disparity of access to broadband.

I do not feel our voices are heard when it comes to urban and rural needs. Our communities are not supported equitably which too often leaves our individual living requirements and necessities unmet. Although it would be great to see indigenous elected officials, more important is ensuring all elected officials understand the unique needs and relationship between Tribal communities and federal and state governments. Equally important is ensuring that all levels of government fairly represent indigenous communities.

That is why I encourage this committee to continue engaging and consulting with Tribal Nations. Earlier this month, we celebrated Indigenous People's Day. Every day is Indigenous People's day for us, and one way we celebrate is by participating in this process to protect the power of the Native vote in our communities. We need redistricting maps that represent the Tribal nations in Nevada.