

# Native American Rights Fund

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March 4, 2022

Gautam Raghavan  
Director  
The White House  
Office of Presidential Personnel  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500-0005

**Re: Letter of Support for Patrice H. Kunesh as the Commissioner,  
Administration for Native Americans**

Dear Mr. Raghavan,

I am John Echohawk, Executive Director of the Native American Rights Fund in Boulder, Colorado and I write this letter of support for Patrice H. Kunesh, Standing Rock Lakota descendant, for appointment as Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans.

Ms. Kunesh worked for us at the Native American Rights Fund as a staff attorney from 1989 to 1995. I got to know her well as she did great work for us representing tribes on water rights, oil and gas leasing, cultural property repatriation, constitution and code drafting, jurisdictional disputes and Indian child welfare.

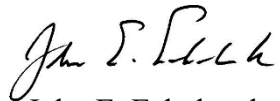
I have followed her career as she went on to work for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, the University of South Dakota School of Law, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Center for Indian Country Development. Ms. Kunesh works so well with people and knows the issues so well that we brought her back into the Native American Rights Fund in 2020 as our Development Officer responsible for the design, development and implementation of our major gifts program.

Letter of Support for Patricia Kunish  
March 4, 2020  
Page 2

Because of her expertise, last year she received a Presidential Appointment to the U. S. Treasury Community Development Advisory Board. In that capacity, Ms. Kunesh provides advice to the Director of Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund which promotes economic development and revitalization in America's underserved and distressed low-income communities.

All of this experience makes Ms. Kunesh an excellent choice for Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans, which promotes self-sufficiency for Native Americans through grants, training and technical assistance. I highly recommend Ms. Kunesh to you for this appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Echohawk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John E. Echohawk  
Executive Director  
Native American Rights Fund