

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

March 3, 2010

Marty Bluewater  
Executive Director  
3801 West Government Way  
Seattle, WA 98199

Dear Friends,

Thank you for inviting me to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Activities. I regret that I am unable to join you in person today, however, would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your continued hard work and dedication.

Forty years ago, hundreds of Native Americans led the charge to occupy Fort Lawton in Seattle. Due to their dedication, and peaceful opposition, spanning over several months, the inherent unfair treatment of Native Americans was brought to light. Their efforts led to national recognition of a systematic problem that prevented Native Americans from gaining equitable access to government assistance and highlighted the broken system that failed to serve those most in need.

Since its opening in 1977 the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center has been an important place for cultural enrichment and community gatherings. The center serves as a symbol of tribal cooperation and struggle for equal rights as well as a location for conferences, pow-wows, a head-start program, and an art gallery.

I extend my most sincere gratitude to the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation for providing the State of Washington with a venue that celebrates such cultural diversity. Please accept my best wishes for a successful event!

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

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