

Native Farm Bill Coalition

2019 ACPP Health Promotion Policy Award Recipient



Each year, the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB) and the Advisory Committee on Public Policy (ACPP) rewards an individual or group that aligns with the Society's mission to participate and enact change in nutrition education through policy change. This year, the award will be presented to the Native Farm Bill Coalition at the SNEB Annual Conference in Orlando, FL July 27-30.

Organized to give Native Americans a strong and united voice, the Native Farm Bill Coalition works to advance a common Farm Bill agenda benefiting Indian Country. The Native Farm Bill Coalition is a joint project of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's Seeds of Native Health campaign, the Intertribal Agriculture Council, the National Congress of American Indians, and the

Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (research partner) to improve Native dietary health and food access. The Coalition is co-chaired by Keith B. Anderson, Vice-Chairman of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, and Zach Ducheneaux, Executive Director of the Intertribal Agriculture Council.

The Farm Bill is one of the single largest pieces of domestic legislation in the United States. Enacted by Congress approximately every five years, it addresses everything from nutrition programs to agricultural policies, food production, natural resource conservation, rural development, and insurance programs. Indian Country has been largely pushed to the margins of Farm Bill discussions for decades – which means that Native Americans and tribes are missing out on major opportunities to protect and advance their interests. The Native Farm Bill Coalition works diligently to ensure these tribes are recognized and included in the bill.

Consisting of more than 170 tribes, 15 intertribal organizations and nonprofits, and 2 ally

organizations across the country, the coordinated efforts of the Native Farm Bill Coalition lead to provisions of historic significance to Indian Country being included in the Farm Bill. The Coalition's intense efforts on behalf of Indian Country have led to remarkable achievements in partnership with senators and policymakers. Specifically, provisions incorporated into the bill include the creation of a Tribal Advisory Council to USDA, authorizing a new \$5 million demonstration project to allow tribes to purchase some FDPIR food under self-determination contracts, and granting tribes the eligibility to participate in local food programs to help tribes grow, process and market Native foods.

The Coalition continues to employ critical next steps for tribes and tribal organizations during the implementation of the Farm Bill through activities such as webinars, meetings and additional advocacy efforts. These key contributions for Indian Country coupled with the noteworthy milestones achieved deem the Coalition a worthy recipient of the 2019 ACPP award. ■