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**This letter reflects the authorization for the committee as approved by Legislative Council at its meeting on April 26, 2024.**

**To:** Legislative Council

**Requested by:** Representative Joseph

**With support of:** Senators Coleman, Danielson, and Simpson and Representatives Bacon, Boesenecker, Bradley, Brown, Clifford, Evans, Frizell, Froelich, Garcia, Hamrick, Hartsook, Holtorf, Jodeh, Lieder, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Luck, Lynch, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, Marvin, Mauro, McCormick, McLachlan, Pugliese, Ricks, Rutinel, Snyder, Soper, Story, Taggart, Titone, Velasco, Weinberg, Winter T., and Young

**Re:** Request for an interim study committee regarding American Indian Affairs

**Date:** 4/26/2024

## Information Required Pursuant to Section 2-3-303.3, C.R.S.

I hereby request that an interim study committee be formed to study American Indian Affairs during the interim between the 2024 and 2025 legislative sessions. The interim study committee would be named the "American Indian Affairs Interim Study Committee".

The interim committee would create a legislative forum to build better relationships with American Indian communities and to address challenges faced by American Indians in Colorado through engaging in meaningful conversation between legislators, tribal citizens, and American Indian communities. The policy issues to be studied include, but are not limited to: physical and behavioral health disparities and access; judicial matters, including Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives concerns, protection orders, and jurisdictional concerns; the Indian Child Welfare Act; outdoors and recreational access; the future of water; and other areas of concern that arise from the committee's discussions with stakeholders and community members.

The interim study committee would need to meet 4 times to study the issues. The initial meeting of the interim study committee should include cultural competency training for the committee members.

The interim study committee should consist of 6 members of the General Assembly, selected as follows:

- 3 members of the Senate, with 1 appointed by the President of the Senate, 1 appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, and 1 appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.
- 3 members of the House of Representatives, with 1 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 1 appointed by the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, and 1 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

The interim study committee shall, as much as practicable, include those legislators who represent the areas of the state that include tribal lands.

Nonlegislative members will not have a role in the interim study committee.

A task force is not necessary to assist the interim study committee in studying the scope of policy issues described above.

The interim study committee will need up to 3 bills to address the issues it studies.

### **Additional Information Related to the Interim Study Committee Request**

The following entities may be called upon to provide assistance or information to the interim study committee: Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs; the Southern Ute Indian Tribe; and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

In addition to the 4 committee meetings, the interim study committee requests authorization to travel outside of the Denver metropolitan area for 1 in-person tour of Colorado's reservation lands.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.