

AMERICA'S LEADING TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES BENEFIT TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

(S. 2992 AND H.R. 3816)

Tribal Communities across the nation increasingly use growing technology platforms to aid both their individual in day-to-day activities and collective community advancement. The American Innovation And Choice Online Act (AICOA; S. 2992) puts these benefits at risk, which may deepen an already significant digital divide in one of America's most underserved communities:

Platforms like Amazon Prime and Google Search increase convenience and accessibility, allowing families and individuals to gain access to goods and services that may not be in close proximity to them. AICOA could upend the way Tribal communities use these platforms.

- **Key Example: Amazon without Prime free shipping:** Congress might cost these communities free shipping through their Amazon Prime membership, which could force them to pay more and wait longer for the things they need.
- **Key Example: Google Maps:** The bills could hamper Google Maps' integration with other useful products, like Search. Making it harder to locate and access important services.

Tribal Communities have overcome unprecedented challenges over the past year, but now Congress is playing politics with the products that helped them get through it.

Throughout the pandemic, Tribal communities used tech products to receive deliveries for essential products, find directions to local businesses, connect with loved ones, and continue traditional gatherings. These bills could make all these things harder, more expensive, less convenient, and less secure.

Tribal Communities have seen significant growth in tribally owned and operated businesses over the last several years, leveraging innovative digital tools to reach customers, build trust, and drive growth. AICOA could prevent small business owners from utilizing these services.

- **Key Example: The National Congress of American Indians and Google** partnered to create the Indian Country Digital Trainers initiative for tribal nations and communities. Using the Grow with Google free online training tools and resources, these Trainers are helping Native people across the country strengthen their digital skills for employment, and to start and grow their small businesses.

Tell Congress: Don't leave tribal communities behind. Don't break what works.

Read More:

- How a Native American florist is building her business during the pandemic
- Tribal schools embrace distance learning with Google tools