

# THE MARKUP

## *POLICY BRIEF WITH COLBY DUREN*

“The Markup” is IAC’s new policy brief update to keep Indian Country in the loop on what is going on in the Washington, D.C. beltway. A “markup” is when a congressional committee meets to offer changes, amendments, and to debate legislation, and we hope the information provided in the IAC Markup policy brief will provide the same opportunity for knowledge sharing and involvement in the process.

### **Policy Alert 2/11/2021**

#### ***Food and Agriculture Provisions Developing in the Next COVID-19 Relief Package***

#### **House Ag Committee Markup of COVID-19 Relief Ag Provisions**

On Wednesday, the House Agriculture Committee considered the agriculture and nutrition provisions of the COVID-19 relief package and passed it out of Committee by a party line vote of 25-23.

The \$16 billion package includes the following funding and provisions:

- FSA loan debt relief for socially disadvantaged producers for 120 percent of FSA farm loans current as of January 1, 2021. **Note: USDA’s definition of socially disadvantaged includes Native producers**
- \$3.6 billion for food and agriculture commodities purchasing and distributing (including fresh produce, dairy, seafood, eggs, and meat), grants and loans to small and mid-sized processors to respond to COVID-19, and additional loans and grants to maintain and improve the food chain
- \$1 billion in technical assistance funding for entities serving socially disadvantaged producers, including supporting research and scholarship opportunities at 1994 Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian serving institutions, 1890 land grants, and additional entities serving socially disadvantaged communities
- Extends the current 15 percent increase in SNAP benefits through September 30, 2021
- \$37 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program
- \$500 million for the Community Facility Program supporting rural hospitals and local communities increase access to COVID-19 vaccines & food assistance

The IAC and Native Farm Bill Coalition applauds the leadership of Chairman David Scott and the House Agriculture Committee in developing and taking these strong steps to support food producers and food assistance programs during the ongoing pandemic.

- [House Agriculture Committee Reconciliation Package](#)



**NAFOA Tribal Leader COVID-19 Town Hall - Tomorrow - Feb. 12 - 3 p.m. ET**

Our friends at the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) are hosting a Tribal Leader Town Hall to review the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package with several partner tribal organizations on Friday, February 12, 2021 at 3 p.m. ET.

To register, click [here](#).

[https://nafoa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_\\_qqH74UuTMOafY-96tKEhA?utm](https://nafoa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__qqH74UuTMOafY-96tKEhA?utm)

**Generous support provided by the Native American Agriculture Fund**

*Thank You!*



**For more information, please contact:**

Colby Duren, *Director of Policy and Government Relations*, [colby@indianag.org](mailto:colby@indianag.org)

