

State-Tribal Consultation Panel Discussion

STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
CASEY PALLISTER – FEBRUARY 2026

Guiding Questions: Montana Tribal Representatives

Feb 10, 2026

State-Tribal Relations Committee

1. Defining Meaningful Consultation

What does meaningful consultation look like to your tribe or organization, and what practices or principles are essential for it to be effective? How do you know when a consultation has been successful?

2. Historical Experiences with State-Tribal Consultation

How have past consultation experiences with state agencies—both positive and negative—shaped your tribe's relationship with the state today? What lessons from those experiences should guide future consultations?

3. Challenges in the Consultation Process

What are the most common challenges your tribe encounters during consultation, including any recurring issues over time? How could state agencies better address these challenges?

4. Improving Consultation Practices

What specific changes would most improve consultation between tribes and state agencies? Are there best practices—either from other states or tribes—that Montana should consider adopting, including improvements to communication?

5. Tribal Liaison Experience

What has been your experience working with state agency tribal liaisons, including which agencies use them, how effective they have been, and what qualities or skills are most important for a liaison to have? If possible, please share an example.

6. Consultation Policies

Which state agencies have written consultation policies that you are aware of, and how effective have those policies been in practice? What aspects work well, and what needs improvement?

7. Recommendations for State Agencies

What actions should state agencies take to improve consultation and better incorporate tribal input into decision-making? Would agency training on tribal perspectives and consultation practices be helpful, and if so, what topics should it include? Do you think agencies should have publicly available consultation policies, and would you be open to providing or receiving feedback related to those policies?

8. Tribal Consultation Capacity

Does your tribe have a consultation policy or a designated person or persons serving as a point(s) of contact for consultation? If so, how can agencies locate that information? If not, would your tribe be interested in developing these tools?

9. Additional Input

Please share any additional information related to state-tribal consultation that you believe is important for this discussion.