MIDWEST ALLIANCE OF SOVEREIGN TRIBES
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November 05, 2026

Senator Tammy Baldwin
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-5653
Regarding:S5653

Dear Senator Baldwin,

As your constituents, we urge you to vote NO on the November 9 cloture vote on S. 5653, the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act (BAAJA). This legislation threatens protections for Native Nations' sacred places, burial grounds, cultural heritage, and ancestral homelands. It would weaken federal laws designed to ensure Native Nations have a meaningful voice in decisions affecting their cultural and historic places. We are deeply concerned that S. 5653 would: Weaken protections for sacred places: Limit the review of potential impacts on historic and cultural places, leaving important sites vulnerable to damage or destruction. Undermine Native Nation consultation: Shorten consultation timelines and allow federal agencies to move forward without meaningful agreement from affected Native Nations. Restrict legal protections: Make it harder to challenge harmful projects in court and limit the ability to stop construction while legal concerns are addressed. Prioritize development over cultural preservation: Allow projects to move forward through expedited processes that undermine meaningful consultation and accountability. Native Nations are sovereign governments, and their rights must be respected. Protecting sacred places and cultural heritage is not solely a Native issue. It is a matter of human rights, environmental protection, and government accountability that affects us all. Native Nations' homelands, burial grounds, and cultural landscapes are not regulatory bottlenecks. They were Sacred Then. They are Sacred Now. And they must remain Sacred Tomorrow. We urge you to uphold federal trust and treaty obligations, protect Native Nations' rights, and vote NO on S. 5653 on 11/09/2026.

Thank you,

Scott R. Vele Executive Director