BAY MILLS INDIAN COMMUNITY
"GNOOZHEKAANING" PLACE OF THE PIKE

BAY MILLS TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION
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November 6th, 2026

The Honorable Elissa Slotkin
825B Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Impacts of the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026

Dear Senator Slotkin,

On behalf of Gnoozhekaaning, "Place of the Pike," or Bay Mills Indian Community, I am writing to urge you to **oppose** the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026. As currently drafted, this bill will lead to environmental harms and could have the dangerous effect of limiting the ability of Tribal Nations to participate in the federal decision-making that directly affects their sovereign interests. As written, this bill would upend the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and the National Historic Preservation Act.

Where there is potential harm to our sacred cultural lands and resources, there must be thorough and early consultation between Tribal Nations and the federal government. When Tribal Nations are brought into federal decision making at its earliest stages, we can help guide project design to avoid irreparable harm and legal violations on the front end of projects. By reducing oversight over these projects to fast-track these energy initiatives, there leaves the potential for an environmental disaster and cultural resources destruction to occur.

As currently drafted, the bill provides for little consultation and decimates tribal ability to prevent harm to waters and wetlands within our traditional territories. It prevents the consideration of impact to wildlife through the project analysis process, limiting judicial remedies for illegal projects, and limiting state and tribal authority in the water quality certification process. Additionally, this bill weakens the National Historic Preservation Act, limiting the ability of Tribal Nations, states, and other local, community stakeholders to steward and protect culturally important sites and landscapes. Finally, as it relates to mining, this bill would dramatically expand the rights of companies with mineral claims to use public lands for industrial development associated with mine operations while also restricting Tribal Nations and communities to challenging potentially harmful mining projects in courts through the Mining Law and Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

While making sure that energy is readily available to everyone in this country is critically important, this bill goes further by limiting the ability of tribes to challenge decisions that may cause irreparable harm to their communities, treaty rights, and not allowing them to be involved in projects that could destroy culturally significant spaces, ancestors, and beings. We would be honored to discuss these issues in greater detail with your office, please do not hesitate to reach out if you need more information. You can contact Bay Mills Indian Community at wgravelle@baymills.org or 906-248-8100.

Chi miigwetch (thank you),

Whitney Gravelle

Whitney Gravelle, President
Bay Mills Indian Community