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**Tribal Leaders Meet for Historic Summit with Governor
Lujan Grisham**

*Leadership from 23 Tribal Nations Meet with Governor Lujan Grisham for
2020 State Tribal Leader Summit*

SANTA FE – Leaders from 23 tribal nations met with Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and her Cabinet secretaries for the annual State Tribal Leader Summit today. Representatives from tribal communities across the state joined the virtual summit to discuss a variety of issues including the COVID pandemic.

The annual summit was established in 2009 under the State Tribal Collaboration Act to ensure that tribal priorities informed state policy. Today’s event was convened by the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department with the goal of strengthening the relationships between sovereign tribal governments and the state of New Mexico.

Topics of discussion at this year’s summit included: COVID preparedness, economic development and recovery, healthcare access and educational outcomes. Additional discussion focused on infrastructure development including water and broadband access to rural communities. Governor Lujan Grisham reiterated her commitment to building strong relationships with the tribes and working together through the pandemic.

“The State Tribal Leader Summit is an opportunity to set our collective path forward,” said Governor Lujan Grisham. “This week’s meeting comes with a clear message - there is no challenge that we cannot overcome through honest and meaningful dialogue. I look forward to true government-to-government collaboration moving forward and to working directly with the leadership of all 23 sovereign nations of our state.”

“This administration remains committed to ensuring better outcomes for every tribal community in the state,” said Indian Affairs Secretary Lynn Trujillo. “Over the last two years there has been an unprecedented level of support and reinvestment going towards our tribal nations. And as we look ahead toward the path of recovery we will continue to work in partnership with tribal leaders and their respective communities.”

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