



State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee

69th Montana Legislature

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July 14, 2026

Dear Members of the Capitol Complex Advisory Council:

On behalf of the State-Tribal Relations Committee, I respectfully submit the accompanying application and this letter in support of the committee's request for authorization to place a bust of Chief Earl Old Person in the Montana State Capitol Rotunda. The bust has already been completed through private efforts and was donated to the State of Montana in 2025. It is currently displayed in the Governor's Office Suite.

Chief Earl Old Person served as chairman of the Blackfeet Nation for more than four decades and was a leading advocate for tribal sovereignty, cultural preservation, and economic development. Throughout his lifetime, he worked to strengthen government-to-government relationships, advance educational opportunities, and improve the well-being of the Blackfeet Nation and Indigenous communities throughout Montana. His leadership earned statewide and national recognition and left an enduring legacy that continues to influence the state today.

The Capitol Rotunda includes commemorative displays honoring individuals whose lives and service have made lasting contributions to the state and its people. Chief Old Person's decades of public service and leadership place him among those whose achievements deserve permanent recognition within the Capitol. His inclusion would also acknowledge the important role that tribal leaders have played—and continue to play—in shaping Montana's history and future.

The committee recognizes that Chief Earl Old Person passed away fewer than ten years ago, so it will sponsor legislation during the 2027 session to authorize an exception to that requirement.

Along with my fellow members of the State-Tribal Relations Committee, I respectfully request your favorable consideration of this proposal and appreciate your thoughtful review.

Sincerely,

Representative Tyson Running Wolf
Chair, State-Tribal Relations Committee