

# **WIRING THE REZ**



**A FREEDOM VIEW DOCUMENTARY PROPOSAL**



# **A DOCUMENTARY PROPOSAL**

**Freedom View is producing “Wiring The Rez” (working title), a feature-length documentary exploring how new technologies can inspire a turning point in the history of American Indian tribal communities.**

**Through the lens of technological development, Wiring the Rez will examine how a historical lack of access on Indian reservations to modern technologies such as Broadband internet reveals a much larger system intended to isolate, disempower and ultimately colonize tribal communities.**



# NEW TECHNOLOGIES

New technologies represent a great opportunity for reconnection within and between *American Indian* communities which are isolated across several hundred reservations throughout the United States.





# BE TOGETHER

The human will to be together is strong and is a metaphor for re-building historical Tribal cultural and economic connections in a way that repairs the destruction of federal and state policies of tribal genocide, removal and family separation.



# INFRASTRUCTURE

**Indian Country has largely been ignored when it comes to internet infrastructure, due in part to the U.S. government's historic failure to ensure infrastructure development for Indigenous nations, but the COVID-19 pandemic has brought this inequality to the forefront.**





# **GROWTH LIMIT**

**The film will include analysis of the particular form of stakeholder capitalism practiced in Indian Country as a result of Wiring the Rez in some locations (such as Gila River Indian Community in Arizona) and the possibility that rapid and entrepreneurial success by certain tribes has triggered the backlash against expanding Broadband in an attempt to limit their growing economic and political clout.**



# DOCUMENTARY GOALS

- **Start a national dialogue regarding the challenge many Indigenous nations have, who lack the access to capital that private internet service providers enjoy.**
- **Showcase the ways that the so-called “digital divide” mirrors the geographic separation of traditional tribal lands from access to mainstream economic markets and social life, including essential health and educational services and cultural perpetuation for tribal youth.**
- **Challenge viewers to understand the diversity behind what is often understood as a single “American Indian experience” to appreciate the heterogeneity of contemporary tribal cultures, healing strategies and engagement with off-reservation communities and institutions.**





# FREEDOM VIEW

- **Freedom View Coalition, Inc. is a New York based independent non-profit media organization that uses storytelling to promote the beauty, culture, lifestyle and opportunities within and between nations, while providing social, economic and cultural education about peoples and countries across all digital platforms.**
- **Dr. Katherine Spilde, Freedom View's co-founder, is a leading authority on American Indian tribal governments and communities with a special expertise in the balance between tribal government, cultural preservation and economic development.**





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