

Chief's Address to the Nation

amend the Internal Revenue Code by codifying and broadening the "General Welfare Exclusion" as that doctrine applies to tribal governments. In doing so, it excludes most tribal government programs and services from federal income taxation

The bills would also go far in reforming the IRS and its work in Indian Country. They require the Treasury Secretary to establish a Tribal Advisory Committee that will be charged with developing a mandatory education and training program for IRS field agents to learn about federal Indian law and the unique federal treaty and trust obligations. Importantly, IRS examinations will be suspended until the IRS is adequately trained.

The bills also include a number of provisions that provide deference to local tribal government decision-making authority and generally foster the policy supporting Indian Self-Determination and respect for tribal culture.

These bills closely model nearly a dozen tribal government and tribal organization resolutions adopted within the past year. They would strengthen tribal sovereignty and tribal leadership decision-making authority.

National Congress of American Indians

Tribal Unity Gathering Encourages Congress to Stand on Common Ground with Indian Country

Washington D.C. - For a third time in as many years, Indian Country advocates and leaders came together in Washington, DC with unified messages and policy priorities for the start of the fall session of Congress. Tribal Unity Impact Days has been instrumental in communicating the key Indian policy priorities for Congress to address. In recent years, the effort was critical to advocating for successful amendments to the Stafford Act and the Violence Against Women Act. This year tribal leaders stood together to remind Congress of the federal trust responsibility and that, amidst partisan division in other areas, Indian Country is common ground for all Americans.

NCAI joined the Alaska Federation of Natives, California Association of Tribal Governments, Coalition of Large Tribes, Eight Northern Pueblos Council, Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association, Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, Navajo Nation, and the United South and Eastern Tribes in hosting the events. This year, Tribal Unity focused on the protection of treaty promises in the federal budget, tribal tax policy, and land restoration - including a Carcieri fix.

Tribal Unity Impact Days kicked off in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hearing room with over 130 attendees participating in the tribal briefing. Tribal leaders heard from Senators Begich (AK), Heitkamp (ND), and Tester (MT) and Representatives Becerra (CA), Cole (OK), McCollum (MN), Pearce (NM), and Ruiz (CA). Many Members thanked tribal leaders for their dedication in traveling to the nation's capital to share how policy decisions are affecting tribal communities, especially impacts of sequestration on health, education, public safety, and other tribal governmental services. Representatives Cole and McCollum emphasized their support for protecting tribal treaty obligations from indiscriminate reductions.

NCAI and its partners also sought broad support from Congress to assist in providing more fair treatment for tribal governments under the tax code. The Internal Revenue Code has included Indian tribes in a piecemeal fashion, which chooses when and where to acknowledge tribes' taxing authority. Several tribal tax bills have been introduced during the 113th Congress: H.R. 2332; H.R. 3030; and H.R. 3042. Each of these bills is the result of effective outreach from tribal leadership on key tax issues affecting tribal self-governance. Tribal leaders asked Members to co-sponsor in the House, and encouraged Senators to introduce companion bills in the Senate.

Tribes also urged Congress to reject the language similar to the Administration's proposal to unfairly limit payment of contract support costs in the Continuing Resolution. If adopted by Congress, the provisions would set back Indian self-determination and self-governance decades. They would also undo four recent Supreme Court decisions confirming the United States' obligation to pay the full amount of Contract Support Costs owed to Indian Tribes, by denying Tribes the right to recover damages under the Contract Disputes Act when full CSC payment is not made.

Everyone was in agreement on the importance of protecting Indian land. President Keel ended his speech with "As our ancestors before us, we must rally to the defense of our land. We must fight for the land rights of all Tribes, including the overturning of Carcieri with the Carcieri fix, and the advancement of the Patchak Patch. Only together can we protect our lands."

Educational Process

Indian Nations sovereignty is constantly being challenged in courts across America and Oklahoma's courts are no different with 39 tribal nations located within the state's boundaries. I have voiced my opinion to Governor Fallin; Office of Governor Fallin Native American Liaison Jacque Hensley; the Oklahoma Native American Legislative Caucus; and so many other civic leaders that the future state leaders need to be learning about our tribal governments now while they are attending elementary, secondary, and post secondary schools. The sovereign rights of our people and the federal trust responsibility needs to be explained/taught to everyone that attends school in Oklahoma so that whenever they enter the political realm whether on a state or local level or when they are working alongside us that they understand who we are, where we come from, and what we have endured through assimilation.

A very positive movement or "educational process" has begun to do what I have just stated.

Dwight M. Pickering, Director of American Indian Education, State Department of Education has visited my office and has requested the help of the 39 Tribes of Oklahoma to provide accurate and correct information of their Tribal Nation. We are gathering information to provide resources for the teachers in Oklahoma public schools; clear, and correct information they can utilize in their classrooms.

Christina Walker co-owner to a non-profit magazine called "Our Tribal Leaders of Today" and a tribal member of the

Sac and Fox Nation has an historical magazine that will introduce tribal leaders and their staff to tribal memberships statewide. 20,000 copies will be distributed monthly FREE to all the tribal headquarters in the State of Oklahoma. All the tribal chiefs have been asked to take part for the first edition around November 1, 2013, after the first edition they can choose to introduce the rest of their committee the following months or tribal topics. There is absolutely no cost to the leaders or their staff. District 17 Oklahoma State Senator Ron Sharp, Choctaw Nation member, and District 26 State Representative Justin Wood, Sac and Fox Nation member, have shown support of possibly writing and introducing a law that an American Indian curriculum of courses be taught in Oklahoma schools. The "educational process" has taken root.

Short Takes

*National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) 70th Annual Conference, Tulsa, OK to be held at the Convention Center, Tulsa, OK, October 13-18, 2013.

*Self-Governance Strategy Session to be held in Washington, DC, October 30-31, 2013.

*Wynona Judd will be performing at the Blackhawk Casino Heartland Amphitheater, in Shawnee, OK on October 10, 2013.

*Construction will be starting in October on two new 1-acre lagoon cells, which will be located north of the pow-wow grounds. The funding is from a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG).

*Construction will begin in November for 2 projects that will be replacing and upgrading the parking lots for the Justice Center (Court) and Community Building. These projects should be finished by February 2014. The funding is from our Department of Interior (DOI) Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) Program.

*Storm Sirens, Inc. has installed a new emergency siren near the RV Park. The Siren will be coupled with the City of Stroud emergency system; however, the Tribe's public safety department will also be able to activate the system if needed. The Siren will primarily be used for weather warnings.

Thank you once again for the privilege of serving as your Chief and I continue to ask for your prayers for the elected leadership, Business Committee; our governmental staff who provide services for you; and for each other as a unified Nation. Amen.

Sincerely,
George Thurman
Principal Chief

New Magazine Published By Tribal Member Christina Walker

employment. Copies can be picked up at any tribal office for free or can be sent directly for \$5. The magazine will be distributed statewide.

Plans also include establishing 39 scholarships for students "who are our future tribal leaders," Walker said, with the scholarship winners announced at the end of the school year, and donations once a year to elders organizations. That allows the advertising costs paid by tribal businesses to go back into the tribal communities.

"I also will have a Warriors' Corner to honor our vets," she said, envisioning an area where proud family members can contribute pictures of veterans who served or are serving our country.

Native Publications has not yet found a building to call home, but when it does the building already has a job to do as well. Besides housing the business, the building will be a place where people can find help with activities such as filling out paperwork



Christina Walker

or studying for the ACT or GED.

The magazine is created by Native owned and operated Native Publications, Inc. for the Native people to voice their opinions, air their concerns, and learn about employment or events.

"It's going to be great!" Walker said.

Thank You

Dear Members of the Sac and Fox Nation:

I do hereby express my gratitude to you for electing me the Secretary of the Sac and Fox Nation.

So many of you expressed your "thoughts" to me on the business of the Sac and Fox Nation. I will certainly give all the effort I can on your behalf.

I invite all tribal members to join me as we work towards making the Sac and Fox Nation to reach it's full capabilities, so every member will be proud of their Indian tribe. We need to pay our bills in a timely manner, and work towards getting our money's worth, for every dollar we spend.

For the young tribal members and (old), I encourage you to read about our history. We have a proud history and each of us need to know what happened so many years ago. I received many praises and compliments on the recent Inauguration Ceremony on the 19th. The welcome by our greeting staff upon our arrival at the Community Building was just great! It made us feel great to be a Sac and Fox, didn't it?

Again, THANK YOU for the opportunity to serve you.
Sincerely, Mary F. McCormick, Secretary

Attention Black Hawk Health Center Patients

We have a new phone system
and our extensions have changed

When you call the clinic please listen to the menus

- Press 1..... for Contract Health
- Press 2..... for Pharmacy
- Press 3..... for Medical Records
- Press 4..... for Nursing
- Press 5..... for Behavioral Health
- Press 6..... for Merle Boyd Center
- Press 7..... for Transportation
- Press 8..... for CHRs
- Press 9..... for Administration
- Press 0..... for the Operator

URGENT

NOTICE TO VETERANS

Men and Women especially WW1, WW2 and Korean

The Sac and Fox National Public Library
is asking for your DD 214's for their records
and **Memorial Monument Purposes**

See Cathrine Walker
1-918-968-0705