

RED LAKE BAND of CHIPPEWA INDIANS

RED LAKE NATION HEADQUARTERS



PO Box 550, Red Lake, MN 56671

Phone 218-679-3341 • Fax 218-679-3378

OFFICERS:

FLOYD JOURDAIN, JR., Chairman
DON R. COOK, SR., Secretary
DARRELL G. SEKI, SR., Treasurer

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES:

GARY NELSON
GLENDA J. MARTIN
JULIUS "TOADY" THUNDER
ALLEN PEMBERTON
ROMAN "DUCKER" STATELY
DONALD J. "DUDIE" MAY
WILLIAM "BILLY" GREENE
RICHARD BARRETT, SR.

ADVISORY COUNCIL:

7 HEREDITARY CHIEFS

United States Senator Al Franken
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

March 17, 2011

Dear Senator Al Franken:

On behalf of the Red Lake Nation I urge you to oppose the legislation introduced by Senator Claire McCaskill S. 3959 and the companion legislation introduced by Representative Bennie Thompson H.R. 6447 entitled, "To eliminate the preferences and special rules for Alaska Native Corporations under the program under section 8(a) of the Small Business Act."

This bill reestablishes a previous Congressional approach of stripping Native people and Tribes of their rights when it appeals to the interest of a few misguided Members of Congress. It amends the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act without any consultation with Alaska Native people, shunning the last 40 years of Federal Indian Policy focused on self-determination of Native communities.

This ill-conceived legislation would deny Alaska Native Corporations (ANC), Alaska Tribes, and Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs) congressionally-promised opportunities within the Small Business Administration's (SBA's) 8(a) program that, in turn, have provided millions in essential benefits to Native people.

Such legislation would end access to a program that provides economic opportunities for Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians and is expected to soon spread to attacks on Indian Tribes. In response, the National Congress of American Indians, representing and serving hundreds of Tribes across the United States, stood in strong solidarity with the Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian people by unanimously passing a motion during their Annual Convention on November 18, 2010 opposing this legislation.

New regulations and legislative provisions already in motion will substantially improve oversight of the Native 8(a) Program. The SBA proposed rule changes will establish a system to report benefits provided to the Native community from 8(a). These rules will also impose new annual financial reporting for Native 8(a) firms; create additional oversight by the SBA and agencies, and place new restrictions on Native 8(a). The SBA has already submitted their draft regulations to the Office of Management and Budget, which has 90 days to review them prior to implementation.

TRIBAL COUNCIL Organized April 18, 1918 (Revised Constitution & By-Laws, January 6, 1959)

CHIEF COUNCIL OF 1889: May-dway-gwa-no-nind, Nah-gaun-e-gwon-abe, Mays-co-co-caw-ay, Ahnah-me-ay-ge-shig, Naw-ay-tah-wowb; Nah-wah-quay-ge-shig

In addition, the National Defense Authorization Act of FY2010 includes a provision called Section 811, which requires agencies to go through a formal Justification and Approval process for any sole-source award to a Native 8(a) over \$20 million. Tribal consultations were just completed on this provision, and Section 811 will be implemented sometime in the next several months.

Federal contracting has been a critical element of economic development for many Tribes, ANCs, and NHOs and has provided countless benefits to Native communities. Please stop any such "air drop" efforts into any legislative vehicles, including Continuing Resolutions the National Defense Authorization Act, Omnibus Appropriations, or others that do not conform to regular order.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to oppose this misguided legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hoyt", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Chairman
Red Lake Nation

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United States Senator Amy Klobuchar
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

March 17, 2011

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Chairman
Red Lake Nation