



BLACKFEET NATION

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June 14, 2010

Ms. Jacqueline Johnson Pata
Executive Director
National Congress of American Indians
1516 P. Street NW
Washington, D.C. 2005

Re: The Cobell Settlement

Dear Ms. Pata:

The Blackfeet Tribe has just become aware of a letter sent by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) to the offices of various Senators supporting the Barrasso Amendment No. 4313 to the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010. The Blackfeet Tribe is a member of NCAI and yet has not been made privy to such letter.

Please be advised that the Blackfeet Tribe stands one hundred percent (100%) behind all of the Native American allottees and the Cobell Settlement as it now stands. I am very concerned, as a representative member of NCAI that this organization would press the adoption of an amendment that hurts allottees. What right does NCAI have in supporting an amendment which goes to the rights of Tribes more than to the rights of the individuals in whose name this suit has been instituted and who have stood patiently by for the last fourteen (14) years hoping to see that justice is done? How can the NCAI make decisions for individual allottees? This present action by NCAI is out of line and not in keeping with the purposes and vision of this organization.

The Blackfeet Tribe strongly supports the Cobell Settlement as it now stands and urges the body not to pass any resolution at its upcoming meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota which would undermine this Settlement. The Blackfeet Tribe wants NCAI to go back to representing the interests of its members Tribal organizations and not to interfere in the lives and livelihood of individual Indian people.