

October 29, 2006

Chester D. Mill, Superintendent
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Uintah and Ouray Agency
PO Box 130
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Dear Mr. Mills,

This letter is in reference to the election process conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians of Utah.

First of all, I want to thank the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for accepting the Band's request to oversee the election of new officers. On 28Oct06, I received a certified letter informing me of the results of the nominated candidates and who the newly elected officers are for the Band.

However, I feel, as a Band member and concern citizen, the following issues need to be brought to your attention, as the signatory on all certified letters sent by BIA, regarding the election of the Band. The concern(s) are as follows:

The certified letter sent by BIA on Oct06 to all tribal members indicated the counting of the ballots would be done at 10:00 am on 23Oct06 by the Election Committee. I was at the BIA Office on 23Oct06 @ 10:15 am inquiring of the counting of the ballots. I was informed by Ms. Dinah Peltier, Election Committee Chairperson and Deputy Superintendent for BIA, the counting will be done today after 2:00 p.m. I returned again at 2:15 p.m., and asked again about the counting of the ballots for the Band. I was informed by Ms. Pam Martin the ballots would be counted at 2:30 p.m. The counting of the ballots began around 2:45 p.m. At approximately 3:15 p.m., I was called into the office of Ms. Peltier and results of the ballots were revealed to me at that time by her.

When the ballots were counted and the results were shared with me by Ms. Peltier, the total ballots accounted for at 3:15 p.m., on 23Oct06 was only forty-four ballots. How do I know this? The tally sheet on Ms. Peltier's desk had the number forty four circled for each position with the names AND the results of each candidate listed who were the nominees in the Band's election of officers. Furthermore, I was verbally informed by Ms. Peltier the results were not considered final; and the BIA would wait to see if more ballots would be received by tomorrow (24OCT06). Again, I am making reference to the certified letter sent by BIA, which indicated that all ballots would be accounted for when the counting of the ballots is done at 10:00 a.m. on 23Oct06. How was this possible when there were only 44 ballots received and accounted for? Were the forty four remaining ballots considered spoiled because they were not received AND

accounted for @ 10:00 a.m., on 23Oct06? Was there a violation that occurred here is my question to you, Mr. Mills? Furthermore, how can the BIA assure the Band what ballots were received AND accounted for at 10:00 a.m., on 23Oct06? Were more ballots received after 10:00 a.m., on 23Oct06? For professional purposes, if BIA is to document and certify a process that is to involved an election process for the Band, the procedure should be thoroughly followed. If any amendments were made, there were no certified letters sent out to the Band members informing them of such changes. As you are probably aware by now, the Band's tribal election is a very sensitive subject and needs to be treated with utmost respect. This also includes the integrity of the Band members for their own well being and their sovereign rights as a whole.

In conclusion, I have raised these ethical concerns to you in hopes that you will make the necessary corrections, so as a Band, we will move forward in accepting a new leadership. There are too many erroneous variables involved in the conduct of this election for the Band. There is also no other alternative but to contest this election. Other variables to consider are: the rights of the candidates to witness the opening of the received ballots; the security of the received ballots and who had access to them; the blind vote process which indeed violated the candidate rights and platform; some ballots were received for the General Election and not the Primary; some ballots received for the Primary Election and not the Genera; the decision by a dissolved Executive Committee (Chairman) on the eligibility of a tribal member, when the BIA record reflects otherwise; and lastly the violation of the Band's customs and traditions when nominating and electing tribal members to the Executive Committee.

As a concerned tribal member and in the best interest of the Band, I feel this letter deserves your undivided attention. Since this is of utmost concern, I am requesting a response from your office by November 30, 2006. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Blaine V. Bear
Tribal Member of Skull Valley Band of Goshutes

cc: File

Dinah Peltier, Deputy Superintendent & Election Chairperson
Allen Anspach, Western Regional Director
William McConkie, SLC Solicitor's Office

