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Chief's Address To The Nation



Tribal Members,
This month I report on some of the issues that affect our Nation and the process and means utilized to bring forth our concerns before the elected officials of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation. I traveled to Washington, D.C. April 7-8 to visit "The HILL" and to testify on behalf of our Nation.

Congressional Visits
Sense, Inc., a Washington, D.C. based firm that acts as a liaison and advocate for Tribes, scheduled appointments with our Oklahoma Congressional delegation (U.S. Senator James Lankford; Frank D. Lucas; Markwayne Mullin; U.S. Senator James N. Inhofe; Tom Cole; Jim Bridestine) to discuss Federal Corporate Charter(s) for Sac and Fox Nation to Support Tribal Economic Development. U.S. Senator Tom Coburn, MD was unavailable, but two weeks later Craig Smith, Field Representative of Coburn's Oklahoma City office, contacted our office to schedule a meeting about our issue.

Congressional Testimony
I requested and was granted the opportunity to testify before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies on the FY 2015 Budgets for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service.

My April 8, 2014 testimony:

Good morning to the Subcommittee Members and Congratulations to Chairman Calvert as the new Chairman and to Congressman David Valadao, the newest member on this Subcommittee. I am George L. Thurman, Principal Chief of the Great Sac and Fox Nation, home of Jim Thorpe, one of the most versatile athletes of modern sports who earned Olympic gold medals for the 1912 pentathlon and decathlon. On behalf of the Sac and Fox Nation, thank you for the opportunity to present our requests for the Fiscal Year 2015 Budgets for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service.

A fundamental goal for Indian Country governmental services is parity with similarly situated governments or services. Although Tribes have made some progress in addressing terribly inadequate public services that many Americans routinely take for granted, they are still experiencing what the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights called "A Quiet Crisis" of unmet Federal funding needs. Full funding of Contract Support Costs is a step in the right direction for Tribes to be paid the costs of performing services under contract with the Federal government enjoyed by non-Tribal Federal contractors. It is not fair that the Federal government's legal obligation to pay Contract Support Costs requires reducing Tribal funds to meet the Federal trust obligation to Tribal Nations.

In Fiscal Year 2013 Tribal programs incurred cuts totaling over \$500 million under the sequestration. We were not able to recover the sequestered funding under the Murray/Ryan budget deal and the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service Spending Plans further disappointed our expectations for budget equity during these fiscally strained times. We strongly urge Congress to fully restore sequestration cuts from FY 2013 and exempt Tribal funds from future sequestration. It threatens the trust responsibility and reduces portions of the budget that are not major contributors to the deficit.

I. TRIBAL SPECIFIC REQUEST - \$4.95 Million to Fully Fund Operations of the Sac and Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center - Bureau of Indian Affairs - Public Safety and Justice - Office of Justice Services - Detention/Corrections Account

II. NATIONAL REQUESTS - BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

1. Public Safety and Justice - Law and Order - Detention/Corrections:
 - a. Increase the 2015 Request by \$4.95 million for Detention/Corrections to fund the Sac and Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center
 - b. Fully fund all provisions of the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010;

Cuts of \$119 million to Tribal Program Funding

3. Add \$19.3 million over Fiscal Year 2014 for Tribal Priority Allocations Account

4. Add \$4 million over Fiscal Year 2015 request to fully fund Contract Support Costs;

5. Add \$500,000 for Johnson O'Malley education assistance grants to support a new student count in 2015 and provide funding for the projected increase in the number of students eligible for grants; and,

6. Provide increased funding to the Office of Self-Governance

to fully staff the office for the increase in the number of Tribes entering Self-Governance.

III. NATIONAL REQUESTS - INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

1. Restore 2013 Sequestered Cuts of \$220 Million to Tribal Health Services;

2. Support Indian Health Service Mandatory Funding to maintain current services;

3. Add \$30 million over Fiscal Year 2015 request to fully fund Contract Support Costs;

4. Add \$50 million over the 2015 request for Purchased and Referred Care; and,

5. Restore \$6 million to the Office of Tribal Self-Governance to fulfill legal requirements under Title V of Public Law 106-260 which increased the responsibilities of the Office.

TRIBAL SPECIFIC REQUEST. In 1996, the Sac and Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center opened its doors as the first regional juvenile facility specifically designed for American Indians/Alaska Natives, as well as the first juvenile facility developed under Public Law

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Special Recognition: The Sac and Fox Nation Police Department, along with several others, recently received special recognition for their participation in the 'Safe Corridors' Program implemented by the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office. Back row, second from left: Major A.M. Selfridge, Asst. Chief Sac and Fox Nation Police Department. Front row, third from left: Bob Roberts, Chief of Police, Sac and Fox Nation Police Department.

New Storm Siren Installed at Sac and Fox Nation Tribal Complex

By Major A.M. Selfridge Asst. Chief Sac and Fox Nation Police Department

Greetings!
The Department of Public Safety is pleased to announce that a new storm siren has been installed here on the Sac and Fox Nation tribal complex. In an effort to ensure a safer work environment during severe weather emergencies, the SFN Department of Public Safety purchased a Sentry Siren model 7V8-B storm siren, which was installed between the RV Park and the Nation's swimming pool. The siren features a 5.5 horsepower motor that emits an omni-directional 460hz warning tone for 3 minutes during activation.

This siren uses the latest technology electro-mechanical design to emit a louder signal in a 360 degree pattern.

The siren activates wirelessly upon independent transmission from Police personnel but will also activate in concert with the warning sirens in the city of Stroud. In the event of power loss, the system will continue to function thanks to a 6 battery backup power system.

This state-of-the-art storm siren is the latest step in an effort to ensure the safety of not only employees here at the SFN Complex, but also tribal members residing in the immediate area. The SFNPD conducted several tests last month to make sure that the siren was operational and it now stands ready for severe weather duty. During severe weather events that warrant activation of the storm siren, the SFNPD will also alert

all employees by use of the Nation's telephonic "all page" feature which will allow a warning message to be played simultaneously over all telephones on the Nation's telephone system. As always whenever there is a severe weather event, uniformed officers will activate lights and sirens and travel from building to building here at the SFN complex and advise employees to take shelter.

After the danger has passed, and all clear signal will be given.

Thanks,
Major A.M. Selfridge Asst. Chief Sac and Fox Nation Police Department
(918)968-2031 ext. 2029
(918) 968-3781 Fax



New Storm Siren: A new storm siren has recently been installed at the Sac and Fox Nation tribal complex

Upcoming Events

May 13

Sac and Fox Nation Veterans' Meeting
Elders Bldg Stroud

May 14

Elders Advisory Committee Meeting
Stroud 10 am

May 10

Mothers Day Dance
Sac and Fox Gym

May 17-18

Camp Clean up
Pick up May 19 & June 23

May 24

Veterans Memorial Day
Gourd Dance

May 31

Princess Competition
Community Bldg
6 pm

June 3 - July 25

SFN National Public Library Summer Reading Program

June 8 - 14

Jim Thorpe Native American Games
Shawnee, Oklahoma