

Update #48

The views, opinions and commentary in this update are those of Congressman Red Corn. They are his alone, and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the Osage Nation Congress.

The Ethics bill, again

The Ethics bill was passed unanimously in the spring, but was vetoed by Chief Gray. The bill did have a fatal Constitutional flaw that escaped detection before passage; it provided that Ethics complaints be heard by the Supreme Court, not the trial court. The Constitution provides that all cases be heard first by the trial court. No effort was mounted to override the Chief's veto.

The bill has since been repaired to meet Constitutional muster, and is essentially the same bill as the first one. Upon reading the bill in this morning (it was re-introduced on May 22 and carried over to this session), Congresswoman Edwards asked the bill be placed on General Order, which would have put the bill to a vote in 4-5 days. That request was granted by the Speaker, but an objection was raised that members had not had enough time to review the bill, even though it had been officially introduced in May.

The bill is now in the Governmental Operations Committee.

A call for an investigation into accounting issues affecting Gaming

Referring to recent allegations regarding accounting practices in our gaming enterprise, Congressman Supernaw publicly called on the Congress to “pursue this investigation to the best of our ability. This is one of the jobs of Congress.” I wholeheartedly agree with this statement.

The Congress needs to hone its rules to allow for thorough investigations – in house. When serious allegations are made, it is the duty of Congress to get to the truth. That involves hearing from ALL involved, not just one side or the other. Further, this should be done in the open. After all, that is the true meaning of transparency.

While much has been said and written about the actions of individual Congresspersons, no one has questioned the legitimacy of holding public hearings in chambers, the subpoena of documents (while in session), or the swearing of witnesses in a Committee setting. Conducting these investigations in the classic legislative method is, in my opinion, doing our job “to the best of our ability”.

As always, please call or email with your questions, comments, or concerns.

With respect,

Raymond Red Corn
Osage Nation Congress
918-287-7400
redcorn@gmail.com
redcorn@osage-tribe.org