

Update #68

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.

Disclosure of special interest

Dear update readers:

In an abundance of caution I'm sharing a disclosure communication with the Speaker as required by the Ethics code and the Constitution. A copy of the text is below.

Mr. Speaker,

Re: ONCA 09-13, I hereby declare a special interest in the appropriation bill before us, filed this day, and disclose this fact for the record. I am an active member of the Osage County Industrial Authority, which will be the recipient of any funds appropriated under this bill. I shall refrain from both debate and vote on this bill.

Please file this communication as an official disclosure and display or record same as required by law.

Regards,

Raymond Red Corn
Osage Nation Congress

The project funding request is for a combination business incubator and training/education facility here in Pawhuska, the first of its kind in Osage County. It will be funded in a joint effort by municipal and government entities. The planned facility is approximately 20,000 square feet, and one of the three businesses applying for incubator space is Osage-owned. Three to four spaces are planned for incubator businesses.

The OCIA recently received a grant for the project from the

Federal government of \$750,000, and has received pledges of additional monies from Tri-County Technology Center in Bartlesville (\$250,000 in equipment and additional in-kind). The City of Pawhuska is expected to provide between \$40-80,000 worth of in-kind utility infrastructure, depending on final design and utility needs.

The OICA has committed \$200,000 of its own capital plus the property on which the facility will be built. The OCIA is prepared to provide \$150,000 in additional funds as necessary. All told, the OCIA expects to pledge about 65% of their total available resources to the project. The OCIA has requested a capital contribution from the Osage Nation. The total cost of the project as now planned is \$1.9 million. Other Stimulus Funds are being sought to make up the difference.

Congressman Red Eagle and I have served for a number of years on this board, advocating local economic development issues. Mr. Red Eagle nor I receive any type of compensation, per diem or mileage reimbursement for our service on this board, which has nine members. Five are Osage, and the past two chairmen have been Osage. The OCIA's director is also Osage.

Congressman Shackelford is sponsoring the bill.

As always, please share your opinions and thoughts with me at your convenience.

With respect,

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