

BLANCHARD ----- LITTLEAXE MEET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY, LARRY ECHO HAWK

Governor Blanchard and Lt. Governor Little Axe went to Washington DC on May 25th 2010 to meet with Assistant Secretary Echo Hawk and his high level staff in the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This meeting was arranged by the Assistant Secretary as a result of our Tribe's concerns and issues resulting from the Federal Court decision in Citizen Pottawatomi VS Bureau of Indian Affairs (Collier Case). The meeting began at 10:00 A.M. on May 26th 2010 with the introduction of everyone in the room as well as other officials on telephone conference call arrangement.

The Assistant Secretary began the meeting by stating that he was very appreciative of the Governor and Lt. Governor coming to Washington for this meeting. He said this indicates the seriousness of the concerns the Tribe have with the "Collier" court decision. He then requested us to update him and others regarding the Tribe's issues.

Lt. Governor Little Axe presented the concerns and issues the Absentee Shawnee have with the Collier decision. He stated this decision infringes on the rights of Absentee Shawnee to survive as a Tribal Government. Such infringements include the following;

- A. Of major concern is related to 10 Probates where the Master Decision Maker is recommending that any undivided interests of 5% or less of the deceased tribal member's allotment be given to the Citizen Pottawatomi. The Absentee Shawnee charge this is an absolute infringement of it's rights to the 5% interest on its tribal member allotments.
- B. Another major concern relates to the effect the Collier decision possibly has on the Funding Allocation for the Tribal Roads Program. If Absentee Shawnee lacks jurisdiction in the "Former Reservation" roads, its funding will be based only on roads within tribal and allotted trust land.
- C. "Collier" also infringes directly with the Absentee Shawnee's organic documents, its Constitution and Federal Charter, which defines the Tribe's jurisdiction as the "Former Reservation". What is the status of these organic documents?
- D. In reference to Law Enforcement, "Collier" also infringes on Absentee Shawnee rights to enforce Tribal Law in accordance with our Tribe's Law and Order Codes in the "Former Reservation".
- E. In reference to Services to Tribal Members, according to "Collier", our Tribe has no jurisdictional authority to serve Tribal Members in the "Former Reservation", except those living on trust allotments.
- F. In reference to Service Population, many times, grant funding allocations are based on service population within a Tribe's jurisdiction. This has yet to affect

our Tribe, however, when it does it will drastically cut our Tribe's funding if we can count only on those Tribal Members living Absentee Shawnee allotment land.

Other issues and concerns were presented by the Governor and the Lt. Governor that directly affects our Tribe in it's ability to grow financially and economically. Concluding Lt. Governor Little Axe's presentation, he read a letter from the BIA regional Director which states that the "Collier" decision only relates to "Land to Trust" issues.

After conferring with his staff, Assistant Secretary Echo Hawk stated that the BIA is in full support of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. When the Administrative Law Judge makes its decision on the Probates, the BIA will pursue the issue in support of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. Much of the other issues will relate directly to the final decision in the probate cases. In relation to the other land acquisition questions and desires of our Tribe, he requested us to submit a letter outlining what the Tribe needs and wants. He said the Bureau is very concerned with "Collier" and he again wanted to stress his support for the Absentee Shawnee. He concluded by telling Governor Blanchard, he appreciates very much our coming to Washington DC to bring the Bureau of Indian Affairs up to date on this issue.

Governor Blanchard and Lt. Governor Little Axe are satisfied with the response they received from the Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and his staff. We intend to keep Tribal Members aware of these issues in future communications.

Governor George Blanchard,
And
Lt. Governor Dan Little Axe