

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Osage Nation Funds on Deposit and Committee Approved Appropriations

Date:Thu, 29 Oct 2009 16:52:53 -0500

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To:<osagenews@comcast.net>

Attached is Congressional Budget Analyst financial information generated and presented to members for consideration with appropriation legislation. If reliable, it indicates there are currently sufficient funds on deposit (conservative estimate \$42,187,346) to pay for all appropriations shown as recommended out of Congressional Committees for FY 2010 (proposed Tribal revenue to be appropriated = \$36,770,179).

I am relying on this information to vote for the Committee version of ONCA-09-66 if the ad hoc amendments proposed by some Congressional members fail. These amendments will be voted in yet another Special Session beginning Monday November 2, 2009. For the record, while I disagree philosophically and on fairness grounds with some of the appropriations that came out of Committees (for example I don't believe the Nation's Treasury Department should make "employee loans" or any individual members should decide large "cultural donations" to non-government groups), in the absence of debate and discussion amongst the FULL Congress and with Executive Branch officials about same, and since there are sufficient funds, I will vote for the Committee recommendations if they remain. Otherwise I will vote "no" on the bill and to sustain a veto if there is one.

I wholeheartedly disagree with the Anderson/Branstetter proposed amendments cutting established salaries, filled positions, and contracts in other branches, and in the proposed amendments by Supernaw/Simms that strike all funding to the Osage News to design and lay out the paper- a prerequisite to having the paper. This is the second year for such proposals. If passed, I question why anyone with qualifications and a job would come to work for the Nation-- seven non-supervisory members of Congress may cut your salary and do away with your job at any moment for any or no reason.

The line by line expenditure format that is being utilized in some appropriations bills at the behest of three members of the Appropriations Committee (Anderson, Branstetter, Supernaw) allows this to happen, and the Chair's unwritten appropriations "process" has caused confusion in Committee and hours of wasted meeting time. Budgeting and Justification are good and necessary tools, but a budget is just that- and should not be incorporated into law in my opinion because it is rigid and doesn't allow for correction of mistakes and changed circumstances. Just today, I have learned of an omission resulting in the wrong "occupancy" amount in one entity appropriation, and of a proposed amendment which gives an unapproved raise to the close relative of one Congresswoman because there is a specific line item for each salary. This would not be possible in a broader format, and because salary amounts and clerical mistakes and inaccuracies are currently set to become law, corrections may well require new legislation and a series of special sessions. Further, this approach has been ultra time consuming - and has resulted in little substantive legislation considered or passed this session.

I hope this information is helpful to the readers. If you would like to discuss these matters with me individually, feel free to call me at (405) 850-6377.

Regards,

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