

OSAGE NATION CONGRESS



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James R. Gray
Principal Chief of the Osage Nation
627 Grandview
Pawhuska, OK 74056

Dear Chief Gray:

This letter is in regard to your recent Executive Branch Protocol and Procedures for interacting and communicating with the Osage Nation Congress. Chief Gray, to say that the Osage Nation Congress is disappointed and disillusioned with your directive addressed to our Nation's employees is an understatement. We believe the Osage Nation government should uphold the principles set forth in the Indian Civil Rights Act and the Osage Nation Constitution specifically affording our citizens the right of free speech.

Many of our Nation's employees are also citizens of the Osage Nation with personal, if not familial, relationships with Members of Congress and the Congressional staff. The Executive's interest in imposing this directive on the Nation's employees is far outweighed by the right of the People of the Osage Nation to freely communicate with their elected representatives in the Osage Nation Congress.

The Congress unanimously agrees that a major gap exists in the communication between our branches of government. There is a solution to this problem, however, your directive appears to expand and compound our differences regarding communication. The Osage Nation Congress is not a foreign government that should be approached with unified diplomacy. We were elected and serve to help this government prosper, and we do that by giving the People of the Osage Nation a voice. Without their voice, our government will be susceptible to the unproductive and unappealing practices that have for too long plagued tribal governments. I do hope that we can come to a quick resolution of this unfortunate circumstance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Archie L. Mason". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Archie L. Mason
Speaker of the Osage Nation Congress