

Ross O. Swimmer

April 27, 2007

Judge Ellen Segal Huvelle
United States District Court for the District of Columbia
c/o Barry M. Hartman and Brian W. Stolarz
K & L Gates
1601 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

RE: J. Steven Griles

Dear Judge Huvelle:

My name is Ross O. Swimmer. I am writing today in support of J. Steven Griles, who is to be sentenced before you on June 26, 2007. I write to ask you for leniency for Steve when you sentence him.

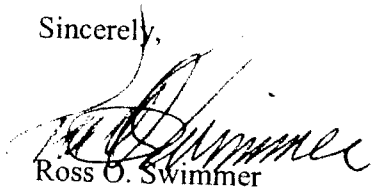
I first became acquainted with Mr. Griles during my tenure as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior beginning in October 1985. At that time, he was Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals at the Department. He had just completed the development of a royalty management system for collecting, accounting and auditing of Indian and federal oil and gas royalties. I worked with Mr. Griles during this time with regard to Indian royalty matters. I found him to be ethical, honest and sincere in his efforts to ensure that Indian individuals and tribes received the correct amount of royalties and always acted in their best interests when issues were raised in the Department regarding Indian royalty matters. We both left government at the change of Administrations in 1989.

In November 2001, I was asked by Mr. Griles and Secretary Gale Norton to return to the Department in an advisory position to help resolve an Indian accounting class action lawsuit. This is an area I had participated in during my tenure in the 1980's and believed I could be of assistance. At this point, Mr. Griles was the Deputy Secretary for the Department of the Interior. The Secretary requested that I direct an Indian trust transition team to reorganize the fiduciary trust functions, put a trust reform plan in place and oversee the newly created Office of Historical Trust Accounting. This Office was to perform the accounting required by the Court and the 1994 Indian trust reform act. Secretary Norton placed Mr. Griles in charge of this project for her immediate office.

I worked daily with Mr. Griles from November of 2001 until early in the year 2003. At that time, I was appointed to the position of Special Trustee for American Indians and my

office was located on a different corridor from Mr. Griles. However, I continued meeting with him at least weekly on matters of the Indian trust until the time he left the Department. During 2002, Mr. Griles led consultation sessions with Indian tribal leaders that resulted in a reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Office of the Special Trustees. His leadership and dedication to weekly and monthly meetings with tribal officials and managers within the Department for the entire year were key to getting these reorganizations completed. During this time, he exhibited total integrity and honesty in all his negotiations with the tribes and others.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross O. Swimmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

Ross O. Swimmer