



SALT RIVER
PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY
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PHONE (480) 362-7400

September 23, 2022

Fawn Sharp
President
National Congress of American Indians
Embassy of Tribal Nations
1516 P. Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear President Sharp,

On behalf of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community ("SRPMIC"), a member in good standing of the National Congress of American Indians ("NCAI"), I write to share our concern of the ongoing management issues, subsequent litigation, and media activity that is consuming the organization. To date, little information has been shared with member tribes of the potential financial impact of litigation between the former Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and NCAI. As the SRPMIC is evaluating its membership for the coming year, I would like assurances from NCAI that no tribal membership dues have been, or will be, used for any costs related to the litigation.

More generally, the SRPMIC believe it is important for NCAI to be more transparent with member tribes about the financial stability of the organization, provide a comprehensive plan for the long-term health of the organization, and to provide a better strategy for representing and advocating the interests of all member tribes. For example, I had a discussion with the former CEO earlier this year of the need to consider methods to improve the advocacy of unique issues of tribes in different regions. For tribes in the west, water policy, federal land management issues, cultural resource protection, are just a few of the unique issues that deserve attention by NCAI. Similarly, there may be unique issues from tribes in other regions that require its own attention. However, following this discussion the CEO was dismissed and there has been no follow-up communication with the SRPMIC.

While I know the NCAI has a tremendous challenge to resolve the ongoing management issues and stability of the organization, I believe there is an opportunity to be more transparent and improve its advocacy of the interests of all member tribes. On the eve of the upcoming annual conference, I hope you and your team share my view that more assurances are needed from NCAI that member dues will only be used to improve its advocacy efforts.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your feedback.

Sincerely,

Martin Harvier
President

Cc: NCAI Executive Committee
Maria Dadgar, Executive Director, ITCA