

# The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Of Michigan

7070 EAST BROADWAY

MT. PLEASANT, MICHIGAN 48858

(989) 775-4005

FAX (989) 775-4131

April 6, 2006

The Honorable Charles Taylor  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior and Related Agencies  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Bldg  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior and Related Agencies  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Bldg  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Taylor and Ranking Member Dicks:

On behalf on the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe, we are writing to express our appreciation for the \$3 million appropriation provided to the tribe in the FY 2004 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act under the Tribal Demonstration Project to construct a school on our reservation.


After careful consideration, our Tribal Council has voted not to move forward with the construction of the school, because it is not financially prudent to pursue this project at this time.


As you well know, many programs in the Bureau of Indian Affairs that provide valuable services to Indian people have been under-funded for many years. It is our understanding that the U.S. Department of Interior has recently announced a \$3 million reduction in BIA programs to pay for a fee award in the *Cobell v. Norton* litigation. Included in these budget cuts was a program that enables Indian tribes to seek and protect their rights under treaties and federal statutes by paying for legal fees and other professional services. The other reductions were from a 0.1 percent across-the-board cut of most BIA program funds.

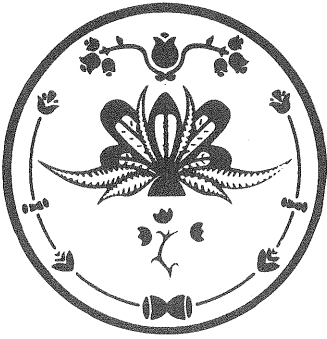
We understand that the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees have the discretion to reprogram these funds, and respectfully request that they consider reprogramming the money set-aside for our Tribe to be used to fund some of the programs that were targeted for cuts by the U.S. Department of Interior.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to continue working with you to improve the quality of life for Indian Country.

Sincerely,

  
Fred Cantu  
Tribal Chief

  
Tim Davis  
Tribal Sub-Chief



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April 6, 2006

The Honorable Conrad Burns  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agencies  
132 Senate Dirksen Office Bldg  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Byron Dorgan  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related  
Interior and Related Agencies  
132 Senate Dirksen Office Bldg  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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