

MINUTES

FUELS TAX TASK FORCE OF THE IDAHO COUNCIL ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 5, 2006

SENATE MAJORITY CAUCUS ROOM
IDAHO STATEHOUSE
BOISE, IDAHO

(Subject to approval by the Task Force)

Task Force members present were Senator Michael Jorgenson; Representative George Sayler; Paula Landon, representing Governor James Risch; Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council Chairman Chief Allan, representing the Coeur d'Alene Tribe; Nez Perce Executive Committee Vice-Chairman Samuel Penney, representing the Nez Perce Tribe; Fort Hall Business Council Member Delbert Farmer, representing the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes; Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Council Vice Chairman Marvin Cota, representing the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes; and Attorney Russ Westerberg, representing the Kootenai Tribe. Paige Alan Parker of the Legislative Services Office was present as staff.

Also present were Mitch Silvers, representing United States Senator Mike Crapo; Bill Bacon and Gary Gould, representing the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes; Darren Williams, David Kerrick and Rebecca Miles, representing the Nez Perce Tribe; Margaret SiJohn, representing the Coeur d'Alene Tribe; Darlene Blossom-Paiua and Lisa G. Jim, representing the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes; Matt Ellsworth, representing Governor James Risch; Idaho Superintendent of Public Schools-elect Tom Luna; Betsy Russell, representing The Spokesman-Review; Pat White, representing the Idaho Department of Education; Pam Eaton, representing the Idaho Retailers Association; and Dan Adams, representing the Langdon Group, Inc.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Representative Sayler, serving as the Task Force chairman. **Mr. Allan moved that the minutes of the June 6, 2006, meeting of the Task Force be approved; Senator Jorgenson seconded that motion, and the minutes were approved without objection.**

Matt Ellsworth addressed the Task Force regarding the status of the negotiations between **Governor Risch** and the individual tribes on the fuels tax issue. Because of the privileged nature of those negotiations, **Mr. Ellsworth** was unable to provide any details, but stated that the negotiations were positive and represented a good faith, respectful effort to reach agreement. Agreement was not reached with any of the tribes directly during **Governor Risch's** tenure, but a good foundation for negotiations to continue had been laid.

Mr. Allan expressed appreciation of the Governor's willingness to work with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe on the fuels tax issue and announced that the tribe has drafted a proposed agreement to be presented to the new Governor.

Senator Jorgenson also extended his thanks to the Governor and stated that without **Governor Risch's** efforts, the parties would not have made the progress that they did. **Senator Jorgenson** also announced that he has spoken with **Governor-elect "Butch" Otter** who has agreed to pick up the negotiations with the tribes of the fuels tax issue and who looks forward to quick resolution of that issue.

The Fuels Tax Task Force meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.