

# 72nd Annual Convention & Marketplace

# SAN DIEGO

## OCTOBER 18 – 23, 2015



## Daily Newsletter: Tuesday, October 20, 2015

The National Congress of American Indians 72nd Annual Convention & Marketplace is off and running to a fantastic beginning! Kicking off with pre-meetings on Saturday, October 17, 2015, NCAI attendees convened to discuss issues on climate change, tribal, state and county relations, strategic usage of tribal data, violence against women, and other important meetings.

***“When the rights of one of our tribes are diminished, the rights of all of our tribes are diminished.”***  
***-NCAI President Cladoosby***

Calling the First General Assembly to order on Monday, NCAI President Brian Cladoosby highlighted tribal rights while NCAI Executive Director Jackie Pata acknowledged the work of NCAI in the current election climate.

“NCAI’s mission is to advocate on behalf of Indian Country. We will do this no matter who is in the White House,” said Pata.

Speakers following Pata included NCAI General Counsel John Dossett, and Native American Rights Fund Executive Director John Echohawk who gave the Supreme Court Update.

Kevin Washburn, United States Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Indian

Affairs, energized to the room with a number of announcements. Among them, Washburn stated his approval for the Yakima Nation’s petition for retrocession of civil and criminal jurisdiction from the State of Washington. His announcement was met with an outpouring of applause and nods from the audience.



**Registration is Open!**

Washburn also stressed the importance of inclusion of urban Indian populations around the nation with the mandate for mail out ballots for all tribal elections moving forward. He additionally highlighted the need for “justice for Native Hawaiians” and for Native Hawaiian federal recognition.



**Assistant Secretary  
Kevin Washburn**

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy gave the Environmental Protection Agency update and said, “[the EPA is] striving to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge into programs and engaging tribal youth leaders of tomorrow.”

Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN), delivered a passionate message and spoke about the role of Congress.

“The bottom line folks, [this] Congress needs to get its act together. The issues facing Native youth must be a priority for our Congress. We know that we are failing Native students,” said Congresswoman McCollum. “We need to make these investments...we need to see a new list of priorities...we need to band together.”



NCAI Youth Group

McCollum also spoke about her support for the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015 (H.R. 511) stating, “I am proud to stand with Indian Country on hunting and fishing rights.”

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro said, “[HUD] will keep fighting to ensure every tribal family lives in dignity and in comfort.”



Secretary Castro

The new Indian Health Service Deputy Director Mary Smith spoke about her commitment to Indian Country while serving in the Clinton Administration and that she would bring the same passion in her new position at IHS.

“I am ready to hit the ground running, but I need your help,” said Smith. “I think many times Native Americans are invisible to people in this country. We can only do this together; we are not invisible we are resilient.”

Closing out the Second General Assembly, the body heard from three presidential candidates via pre-taped videos, including Hillary Clinton (Democrat), Ben Carson (Republican), and Bernie Sanders (Democrat).

Running concurrently to the General Assembly, the Youth Track was in

full swing with tribal youth engaged in discussions around harmful mascots and strategic leadership trainings.



Welcome Reception & Cultural Night

Bringing the first official day to close, NCAI attendees gathered to celebrate and share in traditional foods and dancing during the Welcome Reception & Cultural Night.

Catch all of the action here at NCAI with Facebook, Twitter (@NCAI1944), and the NCAI app! Use #NCAIAnnual2015 to stay connected!

Stay tuned for tomorrow’s daily newsletter to capture all the happenings around the 72nd Annual Convention & Marketplace.

