



National Congress of American Indians

NCAI News

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Dodd Recognition Moratorium Defeated

Yesterday, the Senate overwhelmingly defeated Senator Dodd's amendment to the FY 2003 Interior Appropriations bill that would have placed a moratorium on the federal recognition of Indian tribes. The motion to table the Dodd amendment, offered by Senator Inouye (D-HI), was approved by an 80-15 margin.

Prior to the vote, Indian Affairs Committee Chairman Inouye and Campbell (R-CO) spoke against the Dodd amendment, while Senators Dodd and Lieberman spoke in favor of the moratorium.

This vote marks the third big win for tribes this year in defeating anti-Indian appropriations riders. Earlier this summer, tribes overwhelmingly defeated two riders affecting gaming and trust management in the House version of the Interior Appropriations bill. These victories represent the strength of tribes' collective advocacy.

Senator Dodd has introduced a bill, S. 1392, which would accomplish what his appropriations rider sought to do. While almost everyone is in agreement that the process needs reform, NCAI and all tribes must work together to ensure that the process is reformed in ways that benefit tribes and legitimate petitioning Indian groups.

Thanks to everyone who worked with NCAI to defeat the Dodd amendment. We will keep you updated on S. 1392 and actions to reform the federal recognition process. In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact NCAI at (202) 466-7767.

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