



National Congress of American Indians

NCAI News

Legislative Update – October 11, 2001
(Broadcast #389)

Conferees Approve Interior Appropriations Bill

Yesterday, House and Senate negotiators agreed on an FY2003 Interior Appropriations conference report, clearing its way for final passage and enactment into law. The conference report has not officially been filed, and we are unable to provide detailed information about funding levels and legislative riders until that event occurs.

We are able to tell you that the conference report to H.R. 2217 provides \$1.8 billion for BIA Operation of Indian Programs, a \$61 million increase over the current funding level. For BIA Education programs, \$545 million is provided, a \$19 million increase over the current level.

The Indian Health Service is increased \$130 million over FY2002 and \$52 million over the President's request, for a final funding level of \$2.8 billion.

Contract Support Rider – We have learned that the conference report does not include House-passed legislative language that would have limited the execution of new and expanded IHS contracts and compacts once the appropriation has been committed. This provision also would have prohibited any increase in direct contract support funding for existing compacts.

Lytton Rider – The conference report modifies Section 126 of the Senate-passed bill, which would have repealed section 819 of the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-568) requiring the Secretary of the Interior to accept a certain parcel of land into trust for the Lytton Rancheria of California. It is our understanding that the modified language allows the tribe to acquire ten acres of land and convert their card room into a casino.

We will provide a detailed funding summary of the conference report as soon as the numbers become available.

For further information, contact NCAI at (202) 466-7767.

###