

**RESOLUTION OF THE BIA/TRIBAL BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF INDIAN AFFAIRS**
(Revised May 20, 2008)

WHEREAS, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Carl Artman has resigned effective May 23rd.

WHEREAS, Assistant Secretary Artman had just begun to bring back a focus on improving the operations of the BIA and addressing longstanding problems with personnel management, law enforcement, detention facilities, education and lands issues.

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has suffered significantly from instability in management during this Administration. Mr. Artman is the third Presidential appointee to hold the position, he was on the job for only one year, and the position was vacant for over two years prior to Mr. Artman's confirmation.

WHEREAS, this leadership instability has added to the pervasive lack of confidence in the agency among the tribes and American Indian and Alaska Native people it is intended to serve.

WHEREAS, Congress has mandated that the Administration of the Bureau of Indian Affairs be managed by Indian people in order to promote Indian self-determination and move away from the self-serving paternalism of the past.

WHEREAS, there is only eight months remaining in this Administration, and there is a need to quickly appoint a Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs with an Indian person who has significant knowledge and experience with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, who can get up to speed quickly in the short time frame, and who will continue the priorities established by Secretary Kempthorne and the critical management improvements that have been identified.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Budget Advisory Committee strongly urges Secretary of Interior Dirk Kempthorne and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to closely supervise the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the remaining eight months of the Administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Budget Advisory Committee urges Secretary Kempthorne quickly appoint an acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs with a Indian person who has the requisite knowledge of the BIA and who can continue the management focus established by Secretary Kempthorne and Assistant Secretary Artman.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Tribal Budget Advisory Committee urges Secretary Kempthorne to strongly consider Deputy Assistant Secretary Majel Russell for the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a meeting of the BIA/Tribal Budget Advisory Council at Arlington, VA on May 20-21, 2008 with a quorum present

Joe Garcia, Co-Chair
BIA/Tribal Budget Advisory Council

Ron His Horse is Thunder, Co-Chair
BIA/Tribal Budget Advisory Council