



National Congress of American Indians

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# News

**April 18, 2005**  
**Broadcast #05-032**

**Appropriations Hearing on Native American Issues** – On Thursday April 14, the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing on FY 2006 appropriations for programs related to Native American and Alaska Native issues. Rep. Charles Taylor (R-NC), Chairman of Subcommittee, Rep. Dicks (D-WA) and Rep. Simpson (R-ID) heard testimony from 30 public witnesses on behalf of tribes.

In his testimony, NCAI President Hall underscored the success of tribal self-government and self-determination. He noted that though federal spending for Indians has lost ground compared to spending for the U.S. population at large, tribal self-government has proven that the federal investment in tribes pays off. Tribes have made remarkable socioeconomic gains in the last decade made possible by self-determination, yet substantial gaps remain – real per capita income of Indians living on reservations is still less than half of the national average. Indian unemployment is still double the rest of the country. Thus, while the work of tribal self-determination is well underway, much work is left to be done. The NCAI written testimony further advocated several specific budget recommendations which were developed in collaboration with partner organizations in Indian Country.

**BIA National Budget Meeting** – The FY 2007 National Budget Meeting was rescheduled for May 10-11, 2005 and will take place at the Miccosukee Resort and Convention Center, 500 SW 177 Ave, Miami, FL, 305-925-2555. The room block is "BIA National Budget Meeting." If you have any questions, contact Kevin Martin at 202-208-4808.

**NCAI Budget Strategy Breakout Session** – At the 2005 Spring Self-Governance Conference in San Diego, CA, a breakout session will be held on Friday, May 6 at 10:15 AM to update tribal leaders on recent work on the national tribal budget strategy.