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FISCAL YEAR 2007 BUDGET

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

OVERSIGHT HEARING ON THE PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2007 BUDGET REQUEST FOR INDIAN PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY 23, 2006
BISMARCK, ND

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FISCAL YEAR 2007 BUDGET

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2006

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Bismarck, ND.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:34 a.m. at United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck, ND, Hon. Byron L. Dorgan (vice chairman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Senator Dorgan.

STATEMENT OF HON. BYRON L. DORGAN, U.S. SENATOR FROM NORTH DAKOTA, VICE CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Senator DORGAN. We want to begin the hearing this morning. My name is Byron Dorgan. I am a U.S. Senator serving on the Committee on Indian Affairs with Senator John McCain and a number of our colleagues.

We are holding today a hearing of the Committee On Indian Affairs in Bismarck, ND. Senator McCain has sent with me a statement that he wishes to be a part of the record. He was not able to be with me this morning.

One week ago we held a hearing in Washington, DC, of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs dealing with the President's budget, its impact on Indian tribes and Indian people across this country.

I am holding a hearing today to talk with Indian tribes from our region here in North Dakota and to receive more specific information about the impact of particularly the President's budget cuts and the impact those cuts will have on tribes and will have on the citizens living on Indian reservations. We will be holding some additional hearings around the country, as well, on these subjects and other subjects, including Indian education, in the weeks and months ahead.

I do want to say thanks to United Tribes Technical College for allowing us to use these facilities. Dr. David Gipp is a recognized national leader in education. He's president of a college that I have enormous respect for. I'm a real believer in United Tribes and what it does to enrich the lives of many young people.

And I would also like to say to Dr. Gipp and to others gathered here who care about the future of United Tribes that although the President has once again recommended zero funding in his budget for United Tribes, I intend, once again, to write in the funding for United Tribes in the Interior subcommittee on which I serve. We

have been doing that. I serve on the subcommittee that provides the funding and I'm the ranking member on that subcommittee on appropriations and I will see to it that we once again provide funding to this great college. My colleagues, Senator Conrad and Congressman Pomeroy, feel similarly strongly about this institution and I just want you all to know that although the President's budget does not request funding, I am confident that funding come from the Congress because the Congress has on many occasions represented its belief that this college is a wonderful college and worthy of funding.

So let me ask Russell Gillette from the Three Affiliated Tribes to come forward and he will provide an invocation at the start of this hearing. Mr. Gillette.

[Invocation given by Mr. Gillette.]

Senator DORGAN. Russell Gillette, thank you very, very much.

Next, I would like to, for a welcome, call on Dr. David Gipp, president of United Tribes.

STATEMENT OF DAVID GIPP, PRESIDENT, UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE, BISMARCK, ND

Mr. GIPP. Thank you, Senator Dorgan and vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. We're honored that you have brought the committee here today to listen to our tribal leaders and allow them to speak about the issues that relate to their budgetary needs and the future of their tribal citizens.

This is a historic occasion, I should add, for all that are here today because, as far as I know, in my recollection, this is the first time that we've had the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs have an official hearing that relates to the budgetary matters of our Indian tribes. So we're very pleased and honored to host you today, as well as all of the other guests that have come today, Senator, and we appreciate your remarks about restoring or getting Congress to restore the funding of United Tribes Technical College. It's going to be the fifth time that we've engaged in this issue with the current administration in which they have left us out of the budget, and it would officially become the sixth time in 2008 fiscal year 2007 and 2008 that we would have been left out of the budget.

Only yesterday I was with some of our chairmen, Chairman Davis and Chairman Hall in Washington, talking to the Bureau of Indian Affairs [BIA] and the Department of the Interior about restoration of funds and about the issue of adequacy of Indian budgets for our various Indian tribes. So we recognize and know the tremendous importance of these kinds of hearings to assure that the administration is doing their job in serving Indian country adequately.

Here at United Tribes, of course, we're going to be 37 years old as of July 1, 2006, and that means we have been in the business for some years of serving thousands of children and adults over the these years. As of this year we are going to have served 1,114 adults and about 400 children on our campus and that's not counting the on-line students that we're beginning to offer through our long-distance or distance learning programs. So we are a growing institution and we represent what is happening throughout Indian country.

I've said repeatedly that in Indian country when we talk about our tribes in places like North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, and other places that 51 percent or better of our populations are under the age of 25. We have the growing population particularly here in North Dakota. We have the growing challenges to assure that everyone of our children and our young adults and older adults receive access to good education quality education and can be successful.

At United Tribes here Senator our return on investment is 20 to one in terms of the dollar return of our graduates. We're seeking about $4.5 million for our 2007 appropriation and we hope that you can look into that matter as you deliberate on the issues of the budget.

I'm not going to digress too much. We have submitted record testimony. We would ask that testimony be accepted by the committee for purposes of the budget, Senator.

In closing, I just again want to welcome all of you and mention a couple things. First, that we hope that our tribal colleges will be adequately funded. There are 26 of them funded under the Tribal Control Community College Act. Of course, United Tribes is outside of that and doesn't receive funding there.

The second is that of assuring that we have safe, comfortable and affordable housing with respect to our tribal nations and the needs out there and certainly housing here at United Tribes. We're seeking housing for many, many new students that are entering here and, most importantly, the issue of health care. Health care remains a major, major issue for all of our tribal citizens here and throughout the Nation.

Again, thank you for being here, and we will do all that we can to assist you and our tribal leadership, as well.

Senator DORGAN. President Gipp, thank you very much. We appreciate those great comments and, again, thanks for the wonderful work you do.

[Prepared statement of Mr. Gipp appears in appendix.]

Senator DORGAN. I'm joined today by Sara Garland, who works on the Committee on Indian Affairs in the U.S. Senate, Peter Kiefhaber, who works on the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee in the U.S. Senate and also Gail Skaley, who works with Congressman Pomeroy here in North Dakota.

Gail, did you want to say a word on behalf of Congressman Pomeroy?

STATEMENT OF GAIL SKALEY, ON BEHALF OF REPRESENTATIVE EARL POMEROY

Ms. SKALEY. Yes; Congressman Pomeroy apologizes for not being able to be with you today, but he sincerely appreciates you bringing this hearing to United Tribes in Bismarck and appreciates that opportunity for him. I have some written testimony that I will submit on his behalf, and just thank you again.

Senator DORGAN. Gail, thank you very much. Congressman Pomeroy is not a member of the Committee on Indian Affairs, but I did invite him to sit in. He was not able to do that. But I think you all know and it's safe to say that our entire delegation, myself, Senator Conrad, Congressman Pomeroy, work together on priorities

dealing with the Indian nations and United Tribes, and I very much appreciate his statement. We will, without objection, put it in the record and also will enter into the record the statement of President Gipp.

[Prepared statement of Mr. Pomeroy appears in appendix.]

Senator DORGAN. Let me make just a couple of brief comments before I call on the testimony from the tribes, and Tex Hall, I believe, will be here in a bit. He, I believe, was landing at 10:30 this morning and so we will expect him to join us as well.

Back in the late 1990's I asked then President Clinton to host a meeting in the Oval Office of the White House of tribal leaders from our region of the country. We worked on it for some while, and then on 1 day we gathered in the White House and met with President Clinton. Were you there, Tom?

Mr. DISSELHORST. I remember the day well.

Senator DORGAN. And I did that because I said to President Clinton, We have people in this country who are living in third-world conditions and we have a bona fide crisis in a number of areas, housing, health care, education, and we need to talk about that. And so President Clinton agreed to do that and we gathered at the White House for this meeting with the President, and I have never forgotten the testimony that was given. It wasn't a formal meeting, but the testimony given by the tribal chairs who said to the President—one of them said to the President, you know, I come from a third-world country, but it exists inside the United States, and then he cited all the statistics about the incidence of disease and poverty and accidental death and substance abuse and a whole range of things and it was very compelling. And President Clinton said, you know, we've got to do better, we've got to work on that.

And, you know, we've made some progress. I think it's safe to say that we've made some progress, for example, in trying to finally address the scourge of diabetes. We've got diabetes clinics and dialysis centers. We've invested a lot. Have we solved that problem? No, but we're making some progress in certain areas. But I would say that 8 years later, 9 years later after that meeting there is still so much yet to do. We still have so many who live in poverty and so many who don't have adequate access to mental health services or to general health services or to the kind of education they should expect to have access to or housing. There is so much yet to do.

And that's why I suggested to Senator McCain that we begin to hold these hearings. Senator McCain, as I do, cares very much about what we can do to address the human needs and address the investment needs to make life better for all Americans.

Now, the point of this hearing is to hear from the tribal chairs. We have Ken Davis, the tribal chairman of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribe; Myra Pearson, the tribal chairman of the Spirit Lake Tribe; Tex Hall will be with us, who is the tribal chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes; and we also have Matt Lopez, who is in place for Ron His Horse Is Thunder from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe today.

My intention would be to ask that we have statements from each of the tribal chairs and allow them to tell us what they perceive as the needs, what they would like to see happen, and then we will have time for questions and answers.

I do want to say that the President's budget is a significant disappointment to many of us. It's quite clear that we have to address this Federal budget deficit, there's no question about that, and we have to tighten our belts. It's quite clear there's waste in the Federal Government and we ought to cut out the waste. It's also clear to me, however, there are a number of things that we do that address poverty for people in this country that really need some help, and to have budget cuts in those areas I think is just wrong.

The President zeroes out the Johnson O'Malley Program, which is a very important program for Indians, zero funding for United Tribes I mentioned, zero funding for Urban Indian Health Program, zero funding for the Tribal College Endowment Program, funding for only one Indian health facility in the entire country, you know, a $50-million decrease in school construction for BIA schools.

This is a budget that's a significant disappointment because there's so much we need to do, and this budget in most areas retreats from that obligation. And my hope is that as Congress grasps this budget and begins to debate it and thinks through this budget, we can come to a better conclusion and come to a conclusion that we have a responsibility to make good investments and to improve the lives of Americans who are living, in many cases, below the poverty level and living without the basic services that you need in this country.

So having said all of that, there are a couple of things in the President's budget that I should mention. He does include several million dollars for an Indian suicide prevention program. My guess is that that's because we held a hearing here in North Dakota, held a hearing in Washington, DC, and began to shine a spotlight on a very serious problem. We need to begin moving down that road to provide the resources to address it, and I appreciate the President's willingness to do that.

So on relatively short notice, the tribal chairs have made themselves available to speak on behalf of their tribes here this morning, and I want to thank them for doing that. Before I call on the tribal chairs, I want to recognize Lynn Clancy, who is here representing Senator Conrad's office. Lynn, would you like to say a word on behalf of Senator Conrad.

STATEMENT OF LYNN CLANCY, ON BEHALF OF SENATOR KENT CONRAD

Mr. CLANCY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And thank you for holding this hearing. Senator Conrad regrets that he cannot be here, but I do have testimony from him that I would like to have entered in the record. I don't intend to read it, but he would like to just express his disappointment in the President's budget and especially in the area of education and housing and health, but this is the fifth year that the United Tribes Technical College has been deleted from the budget, and he would like to support this effort today to make the record that things need to change.

[Prepared statement of Senator Conrad appears in appendix.]

Senator DORGAN. Thank you very much, Lynn. Let me point out that Senator Conrad is a member of the Committee on Indian Affairs in the U.S. Senate and does an excellent job and I'm pleased

to work with him. He's in another part of the State today and simply could not be here, but I appreciate very much his statement.

As I indicated previously, Congressman Pomeroy is the voice in the U.S. House that allows us to keep this funding for United Tribes, among other things, in the appropriations process, so I thank both of my colleagues and I thank them very much for their statements.

I'm going to begin with Ken Davis. Ken is the tribal chairman from the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribe. In fact, I believe he has just arrived back from some meetings in Washington, DC, about this budget. The reason I've chosen you, Ken, I think you actually have some seniority over the chair; is that right? I think you became tribal chair before Myra did.

Mr. DAVIS. One year before that. Myra used to be chair.

Senator DORGAN. Myra used to be chair. Well, then skip it, Ken.

Mr. DAVIS. There's been a little confusion.

Senator DORGAN. Let me call on Chairman Ken Davis, and Ken Davis has been very active working on a range of issues on behalf of his tribe and, as I said, just arrived back from meetings in Washington, DC, on this very budget. So, Chairman Davis, thank you very much for joining us and why don't you proceed.

STATEMENT OF KEN W. DAVIS, CHAIRMAN, TURTLE MOUNTAIN CHIPPEWA TRIBE

Mr. DAVIS. Good morning, Senator Dorgan. Good to see you again. Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and other visitors and distinguished guests. I want to thank you first for holding this hearing today and I'm glad to be here to provide you this testimony. I know this committee, especially you, Senator Dorgan, Senator Conrad, and also Congressman Pomeroy, are special friends of Indian people and that you do the best you can to help us out and look out for our best interests.

For those of you, as I've been introduced, I am the chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and I am a member of the National BIA Budget Advisory Task Force along with Chairman Hall.

I want to give you a little background very quickly here on the Federal budget process. I don't know if many of you remember, but in fiscal year 1996, there was a major across-the-board reduction in what we call the tribal priority allocations, and Senator Gordon at that time led that charge, and I just want to say those tribal priority allocations at Turtle Mountain, those reductions, those are the local funds. There's different parts, of course, of the BIA budget, but the local funds, we had a reduction from a little over $6 million to a little over $5 million, over a $1-million reduction.

I want to say that we've never recovered—these programs that work at the reservation level have never recovered from those reductions. And now we see in the President's fiscal year 2007 request a continued attempt, more significant reductions. And we understand there's a Federal deficit—budget deficit, we understand that there's a disaster in New Orleans in Katrina, we understand there's a war going on, but at the same time the needs of Indian people in this country, the first Americans, also are needed to be considered as we go forward with the Federal budget process.

I want to remark that I think it's very important that the *Cobell* case gets settled because it is having a budget impact, not only the fact of what we've seen recently of the $7 million to pay attorneys and accountants, and so forth, but the priorities for the BIA to reform itself are siphoning off major resources that have been needed to be able to fund essential programs at the reservation level.

I've got a philosophy that I've been promoting with the National Budget Committee. I call it a do-not-harm budget, that as we look forward and we look at the increased need due to our populations and also the cost-of-living increases and the pay cost increases as we move forward, even if we can't get significant increases, I respectfully ask those of you that appropriate this money consider do no harm, keep our people at a level at least that we're not going backwards.

You had a hearing recently, Senator Dorgan, on suicide, and I don't see a lot in this budget to address many parts of what's needed to provide the types of necessary support services for suicide prevention.

At Turtle Mountain you'll see in our testimony—I have provided written testimony that we do—we will be working with you and Senator Conrad and Congressman Pomeroy on some special requests for a community youth center for the young people of Turtle Mountain. And we recently got selected by the Northwest Area Foundation for a major poverty reduction initiative, and we hope to be able to leverage and broker some assistance there and other sources to deal with issues such as the high risk of suicide at Turtle Mountain.

We have a continuing—and I've worked with your staff. We have a continuing crisis developing in Indian country on welfare assistance. Until we get our economic development and the tribal economies at the level that the rest of this country and the State of North Dakota is in, that we're going to continue to have to depend upon Federal assistance for the most basic essential needs of our people, and welfare assistance in the BIA is a necessary ingredient to be able to take care of those basic needs of a certain segment of our population. And if you wouldn't have restored the money in 2006—the President was planning to totally, totally wipe out welfare assistance in the 2007 request, but instead there's an $11-million reduction.

And I've got information again in my testimony here that you will see that at Turtle Mountain that our numbers continue to increase. I'm providing you data to show you from 2002 the general assistance and burial assistance and emergency fire assistance and tribal work experience. Our caseload continues to increase, our total dollar amount continues to increase, while the administration says we need less money. And last year they started taking people off of welfare assistance and, of course, with your help again, we were able to get the administration to provide some supplemental assistance, and that is going to have to be done again in 2006. We can't wait until 2007.

I want to thank you for your support and the committee's support of the IHS budget. I realize the medical needs of Indian people have always been a priority. I know you can't give us all we ask for, and the budget again is increasing in 2006 and the administra-

tion is asking for an additional increase. That doesn't tell the true picture.

I've got testimony again—written testimony that gives you a better insight into the true picture. The local budget that we have at our local facility is only able to provide priority 1 contract health services. These are the life and death type of services. Other essential contract needs where you need to go to specialists for a variety of reasons, IHS—you're on a waiting list. And at the local level we're now using generic drugs, not being able to get some of the best drugs this country has to offer. Instead, we're having replacements with generic drugs.

I want to also mention that we do have a tribal community, outer tribe, and in this President's budget request where they intend to wipe out Johnson O'Malley, reduce job training and the wildlife and parks, that's going to have a major negative effect. They get very little out of the Federal Government. They have been kind of a hybrid satellite community of ours and they've grown over the years, but, also, they are a part of this budget.

I do want to mention this realignment issue, and I want to say the task force on reorganizing BIA in the 1990's came out clear that the BIA needed to delegate its authorities to the lowest levels in the BIA, not build up the hierarchy to the tune in 2007 of an additional $17 million to support education management at the central level. And they expect us to accept a diminishment of the federal presence and responsibility on our reservation. Every tribe I've talked to over the past 2½ years opposes this alignment, yet the BIA continues to move forward. Congress needs to require the BIA in fiscal year 2007 to get our consent before any more dollars are spent on this realignment.

I also want to say that in the early 2000's that there was a major backlog in construction and repairs.

Again, I want to thank you for the assistance on the new school construction that we have at Turtle Mountain, but that doesn't tell the true story again nationwide. The construction and repair program since 2001 has been reduced 134 million by the administration, and this was a time when the backlog—we had the support of the Congress to get that backlog completed.

I've gotten, as I said, considerable testimony here from my tribal program directors, and I do want to say we continue to support the restoration of the money for United Tribes and we also support the college movement and the need there. We understand that the ISA program for our children is probably underfunded to the tune of about 1,800 to $2,000 per weighted student unit, and I will be providing you additional information, Senator, as we go forward.

I am going into Washington, DC next week. I hope to get a meeting with you and your staff, but there's more details in what I've provided in the written testimony. So with that I'll be glad to answer any questions or if you want to wait until the rest get done.

[Prepared statement of Mr. Davis appears in appendix.]

Senator DORGAN. Chairman Davis, I'm going to wait until all of the testimony has been completed, then I have a number of questions of you, but let me next turn—we are asking for 10-minute statements and you were right on the button, Chairman Davis.

Myra Pearson is the chairperson of the Spirit Lake Tribe. Myra, thank you for joining us and you may proceed and your entire statement will be part of the record.

STATEMENT OF MYRA PEARSON, CHAIRWOMAN, SPIRIT LAKE NATION, FORT TOTTEN, ND

Ms. PEARSON. Thank you, Senator Dorgan. Again, I'd like to say good morning, Vice Chairman Dorgan and distinguished members of the committee. Thank you for inviting the North Dakota tribal chairs to provide testimony on behalf of our respective nations.

I am Myra Pearson, chairwoman of the Spirit Lake Nation, headquartered in Fort Totten, ND. Before beginning, I would like to thank the committee for supporting American Indian initiatives at the national and State level, and especially those projects where Spirit Lake was involved.

By being here today, we as tribal leaders have been asked to testify about the needs and priorities of our tribes in terms of funding. These areas of need and priority are not an exhaustive list of our needs, but they are a start. By providing for these needs, we as tribal governments can carryout the mission that we undertook when we were sworn into office.

Our tribal government is the primary policymaker for the four tribal communities on Spirit Lake. Because of this responsibility, we have come to realize the importance of using objective data to guide our decisionmaking and addressing the needs of our people. These needs vary by the age of our enrolled members and are influenced by our culture.

We consider our children the future of our people, we respect our elders as keepers of our traditions, and value our veterans as protectors of our people. However, there are three issues that affect all groups. These are poor health status, access to health care and lack of housing. For Spirit Lake, most transportation issues such as distance and cost fall under barriers for access in health care. All of these issues are a result of poverty; thus, education and economic development are critical to addressing these needs.

Health status and access to health care are the primary concerns for our tribal council as we continue to subsidize the health care of our tribal members due to inadequate IHS funding. Senator Dorgan and other distinguished members, we are aware of your support of the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act and request that you continue your efforts to get this legislation reauthorized. Your support is necessary to assisting our Federal Government in fulfilling one of the most important trust responsibilities for our people.

The Aberdeen Area IHS Region, of which North Dakota is a part of, has the lowest life expectancy of all IHS regions in the Nation at 64.3 years of age compared to the 77.6 years of age for the Nation, a difference of 13.3 years. This disparity is partially a result of the rural isolation of the community, shortage of health providers and increasing poverty levels common among our people.

According to research conducted by the University of North Dakota Center for Health Promotion and the UND Center for Rural Health, Spirit Lake adults, when compared to their North Dakota counterparts ages 18 and over, were found to have poorer health status, inadequate access to health care, higher health risk factors,

less health screenings, and lower chronic diseases. The results of this data are listed in my testimony, and due to time restraints I'm not going to go into those percentages, but I hope that they become a part of my testimony.

The lack of screenings and health promotion activities among our young and elder population are of special concern for our tribal council as we see a significant change in health once our population reaches elder status at age 55. We believe the lack of disease prevention, health screenings, chronic disease management, and health promotion efforts seen among our young tribal members eventually results in increased health disparities among our elders.

Another primary issue to our council that is also a Federal trust issue is education of our young people. Results from the previously cited report indicated that Spirit Lake adults were less likely to have achieved higher levels of education when compared to their North Dakota counterparts.

These results mirror national statistics provided in recent Senate Committee on Indian Affairs testimony on February 16, 2006, by Ryan Wilson, president of the National Indian Education Association. Increased funding initiatives to raise the educational status of our people are imperative. Our children continue to test below their North Dakota counterparts, and increased funding is needed to provide a firm educational foundation for our children. Tribal college students are funded at one-half of what non-tribal community college students receive at $4,447 per full-time student, 75 percent of what is authorized. Regardless of the age of our student population, we request your support for the NIEA initiatives proposed in last week's testimony.

The correlation between health status, education levels and socioeconomic status is well documented. Thus, the issue of education is critical to raising the health status and overall income of our people. By raising education levels, we not only increase earning capacity and one's ability to access health insurance and health care, but we also increase the amount of taxes paid into our Federal Government.

A housing shortage at Spirit Lake is denoted by 233 families currently on the housing waiting list. In most cases overcrowding is occurring with multiple families residing in homes built for single families. Recent flooding on our reservation and the resulting high water table has also caused mold problems that have raised additional health concerns regarding asthma and other respiratory diseases. Substandard housing weatherization has resulted in increased heating bill costs that are severely affecting our tribal members' ability to make ends meet.

I also want to make a part of my testimony that the law enforcement and tribal courts are severely underfunded. At Spirit Lake our tribal court is currently staffed with two judges, three clerks and a juvenile officer. Our law enforcement agency is forced to work in conditions where often only one police officer is assigned to a shift. Further budget cutbacks for these programs has an effect upon the ability of law enforcement and the courts to administer justice. Not only that, but these law enforcement officers are placed in extreme risk of injury by being forced to patrol an entire reservation alone.

These issues facing our communities in the area of public safety not only affect our community, but also neighboring communities with such issues as sex offender registration, domestic violence and an emergence of drugs such as meth. We are seeing a need for State, tribal and Federal law enforcement agencies to cooperate now more than ever. In order for tribal communities to be safeguarded, we need to be sure that our law enforcement and tribal courts are adequately equipped to do their part in combating these social problems.

Also, we have a tremendous need for a detention center. At Spirit Lake we have no juvenile detention at all. We are forced to contract with state facilities when funding is available, and much of the time it is not. The end result is that many juveniles are committing crimes more often and it is becoming more serious in nature. I believe that this is due to the fact that a juvenile offender knows when they come before the court, the judge will not be able to send them to detention because no detention exists. With no alternatives such as work service programs or home monitoring, the juvenile court is extremely limited in what it can do to hinder juvenile crime on the Spirit Lake. We need funding for juvenile facilities and alternative programs if we are to end this cycle among our youth.

As a part of our mission, our tribal governments are responsible for ensuring that general health and well-being of our people are provided for and protected. There is no doubt that these budget shortfalls significantly impact our ability to carryout this mission.

Beyond the budget shortfalls, I am concerned over the apparent unwillingness of the Federal Government to listen to the tribes when we do provide comments and input in budgetary needs. The 2007 budget cuts are a clear reflection of this unwillingness. Tribal leaders were among the many consulted with Federal agencies on the 2007 budget, and still the comments and input from those tribal leaders were seemingly ignored.

All of the above-mentioned issues are critical and of priority to Spirit Lake. We recognize the importance of applied research in developing plans of action. However, we also recognize our culture and our community expertise must be implemented if these efforts are to be successful. We are open to working with your committee to move forward in the effort of addressing the disparities being experienced across Indian country. Furthermore, we applaud your efforts to reach out to the North Dakota tribes to get a better picture of our needs. And I thank you for this.

[Prepared statement of Ms. Pearson appears in appendix.]

Senator DORGAN. Chairperson Pearson, thank you very much. I want to read into the record just a couple of statistics that you did not. There are a number of them that come from the University of North Dakota Center for Health Promotion and some that come from the National Resource Center on Native American Aging and they relate to the adults on your reservation.

Spirit Lake adults were 59 percent less likely to have health coverage, 52 percent less likely to have a personal doctor, 78 percent more likely to be obese, 193 percent more likely to smoke, just to pick out some, 288 percent more likely to chronically drink. The National Resource Center on Native American Aging in your state-

ment says that Spirit Lake elders were 44 percent more likely to have arthritis, 90 percent more likely to have congestive heart failure, 206 percent more likely to have diabetes, 375 percent more likely to have colon or rectal cancer.

I just point out that your testimony includes some statistics that also describe some very serious problems and some very serious, especially health care, issues faced by members of your tribe.

Tex Hall is here. Did he just leave? Tex is hard to pin down, you know. Tex Hall has now joined us. I indicated, Chairman Hall, that you were coming in on an airplane. We have a seat up here and we're about ready for you if you're willing to offer us testimony. What we have been doing is asking for, Chairman Hall, a 10-minute oral testimony, if you will.

Mr. HALL. Oh, I'll keep it to 10 minutes, Senator.

Senator DORGAN. Then we will hear from Matt Lopez, who is speaking on behalf of Chairman Ron His Horse Is Thunder from Standing Rock. As I introduce Tex Hall, I should say that we in North Dakota have been enormously proud of his national leadership, two terms as president of the National Congress of American Indians, and Tex has been very involved.

Chairman Davis, you mentioned the *Cobell* case, and I know all of you have been involved in that, none more so than Tex Hall, in trying to develop a national concensus on how we try to address the *Cobell* case, because, I agree, Chairman Davis, that we have to find a way to see if we can resolve that. It has an impact on so many other things. At any rate, that's a long introduction. Chairman Hall, we know you have been flying this morning, but we're very pleased your being with us to speak on behalf of your tribe, the Three Affiliated Tribes.

STATEMENT OF TEX G. HALL, CHAIRMAN, THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES

Mr. HALL. Good morning, Senator Dorgan, all of the staff that are here and Dr. Gipp and all of the public that's gathered here. I want to thank you, first of all, for the hearing. We're very proud of your leadership in bringing the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs basically right here to United Tribes College in Bismarck.

As you mentioned with Chairman Davis and Chairman Pearson and Matt Lopez, we have been working with the BIA—on the BIA 2007 budget and we're very concerned that—"consultation" is a word that I really think that we would like to work with the committee on defining what that means. And I caught the end of Chairwoman Pearson's testimony about when we prioritize law enforcement because of the problems that we have and the lack of law enforcement officers—they say there's 15 million short nationwide—and we don't get adequate funding for that, it appears that that's not real meaningful consultation. So I really would like to look at it. There's a past—President Clinton and President Bush have an executive order that requires meaningful consultation, but I guess if we meet and discuss and agree and if we come back and then the priorities change, maybe we have to define even further what "meaningful consultation" means.

I do want—a second point, Senator. I do want to touch on the recent 7.7 million that was paid for the—to the Cobell attorneys.

And in talking with Jim Casson, I believe there was a—I want to say a .1 percent across-the-board rescission with the exception of, I believe it's education and law enforcement, but still, nevertheless, the rest of the programs were an across-the-board cut, and I really question the legality, Mr. Chairman, on that.

I believe that the budget should be a do-not-harm budget as it comes to the *Cobell* lawsuit because that is clearly an attack—to me, in my opinion, Mr. Chairman, it's an attack on the plaintiffs or the allottees trying to seek justice, and my understanding the judge paid—required a payment of 7.7 for the attorneys under the Equal Access to Justice Act. Well, there's not equal justice for the 500,000 Native Americans who are seeking justice through the *Cobell* to amend their programs to get an across-the-board cut. We're very concerned about that and look forward to your leadership in S. 1439, the McCain-Dorgan Trust Reform and Settlement bill, and I understand there's a hearing that's coming up.

I do want to mention the ILCA under that section of the bill, S. 1439. Fractionation is a huge problem for our tribe, the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation. For all of the tribes here in North Dakota it's a major problem. And the amount and the probates are backlogged and the budgets just don't reflect adequately our backlog of just trust transactions, lease and approval. Land sales, land trades, land exchanges, gift deeds are just a tremendous backlog. Then if you look at the 2007 President's budget, there is a cut in realty transactions. So you can put all the money you want—there's an increase in the ILCA budget, Indian Land Consolidation Act budget, but if you don't put the increases in the people that do day-to-day land transactions, you'll never get to the backlog and the money will just sit there and the BIA will be forced to reprogram to another priority so the money will not be used for what it's intended for.

The last point on ILCA I would like to make is currently the way the law reads is that the family members or family farmers or ranchers cannot access this program. Only the tribes. So if there's a fractionation for a family, that they're out of luck. And I would recommend that maybe in S. 1439—I know there's a land consolidation piece of your legislation, Senator Dorgan, that we look at that and we discussed that here at the United Tribes College among the tribal chairs previously.

I received testimony from all of our staff and they're all very concerned. We have 64 departments and 550 staff members at the MHA Nation. Welfare assistance is proposed to take a cut in the President's budget. Road maintenance is proposed to take a cut. The Johnson O'Malley Program is to be eliminated. The fire protection program is to be eliminated. So we're very concerned that—these programs are so vital. That's what we were talking about, Chairman Davis, yesterday about do not harm. There should be a do-not-harm mechanism for these budgets because there's a treaty obligation and trust responsibility. And if we lose our fire program, we have no access to protect our communities. We can't have safe and self-sustaining communities. If we lose our law enforcement officers, and we have 6 BIA cops and 10 tribal cops that were funded under the COPS DOJ grant that expired now this year. So as of January, last month, the tribe is using JTAC funds to pick that up.

On health care, we're supplementing over 2 million a year for our CHS and our contract health—JTAC funds. We're afraid, Senator—JTAC funds were not intended to supplant the BIA, and that is exactly what is happening over and over, and I can go down the list.

On higher education—we really place a strong emphasis on our education and our higher education. We're now down—with the reductions we're down to 1,350 each—$1,350 for each. And we had over 350 eligible. Now we'll have to cut that down to probably 100 less. And our statistics—it's in our testimony, Mr. Chairman, we're very proud. For those that have a 3.5 or a better—20 percent of the 350 are over a 3.5. For those that are 3.0 and above, we are 55 percent. For those that are 2.0 and above, we're 20. So basically 95 percent of our higher education students are over 2.0 GPA. So the results—this is a good investment, the results are there, and, unfortunately, the budgets are getting less and less. So we just really want to emphasize.

And, of course, our college here is again eliminated from this budget. And we really get confused when we go into the administration meetings like yesterday and they talk about PART and they talk about GPRA, about how the Government Performance Results Act, requires all these tribal programs to produce good results and then we give them statistics and then we don't know what happens to those statistics when the budgets get cut. It doesn't add up. We're trying to really make these dollars—and we could go to law enforcement. Crime is being reduced because of our law enforcement, but the budgets are not. We can go to education on Johnson O'Malley and higher education. The results are there, but our budgets are being cut. So it's really confusing on how the Government Performance Results Act or PART, the Program Assessment Rating Tool, is administered. It appears to be arbitrarily administered to us, Mr. Chairman. So I don't know what the committee can—how they can help the tribes look into that because we get—we kind of get the run-around when we ask the administration, and they just say, well, you got to keep doing the PART, you got to keep doing the GPRA.

On health care facilities, we're very concerned, of course, of that cut again, and it's only down to 18 million, and there's a number of facilities to be constructed on the priority list in the Aberdeen area, and including our tribe, which is looking to get outside that area, because if it's under that 18 million, as you know, under the President's budget, Mr. Chairman, we have been waiting since 1948, it will be another 50-some years beyond this before—at 18 million it's—they know—the administration knows that there's a $1-billion backlog. Again, it's confusing. I don't know how they justify their budgets. So our tribe and all the tribes will be waiting for another 50 years to get either on a priority list or to get adequate funding.

And I see Urban Indian Health is entirely eliminated, and half of our people live off the reservation. Many of our people live in Bismarck, Mandan, Fargo, and Grand Forks. And I do not understand, Mr. Chairman, how the administration again justified eliminating a program when they have a trust responsibility. And that to me, I guess, would be—my own opinion is they don't understand the trust responsibility.

And, anyway, Mr. Chairman, I could go on and on, but I want to submit my entire testimony for the record, Mr. Chairman. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Senator DORGAN. Without objection—I have a number of questions, but we will have your entire statement printed in the record.

[Prepared statement of Mr. Hall appears in appendix.]

Senator DORGAN. Next, Matt Lopez is here on behalf of Chairman Ron His Horse Is Thunder from the Standing Rock Tribe. Matt, would you want to proceed?

STATEMENT OF MATT STRONGHEART-LOPEZ, ON BEHALF OF CHAIRMAN RON HIS HORSE IS THUNDER, STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE

Mr. STRONGHEART-LOPEZ. Good morning, Senator and members of the committee, and welcome. We also want to thank you for being here this morning.

My name is Matt Strongheart-Lopez and I'm a councilman at large, also the vice chairman of the HEW Committee for Standing Rock. And Chairman His Horse Is Thunder regrets that he could not be here this morning for sake of the loss of one of our constituents. James Jamerson passed away last week, and he was recently elected from the Running Antelope District, representative to the council, so his memorial service is today and so he will be there. But, nonetheless, I just want to give you, Senator and your office, our regards there from Standing Rock.

And this morning, as you know, we do have many, many issues which have already been addressed, and so forth, for your hearing today, but for us, you know, we want to prioritize education and the restoration of the Johnson O'Malley and the higher education and the BIA education, and so forth.

The main—one of the reasons that we want to bring this forward, just to be able to tie together the BIA cuts and IHS cuts, is that, just for an example, with the new regulations, you know, being passed down With No Child Left Behind, many of our schools, of course, are not maintaining their adequate yearly progress, [AYP] but they're identifying attendance as a major factor in that. And so when we as a tribal government go forth to pull on those resources within the BIA judiciary or law enforcement to address this issue, they're not there, it's not happening for us. So the effects for these budget cuts to our communities impose a significant malfunction in our society and for those lack of law enforcements and to maintain our courts and, also, you know, allowing for our children not to go to school, and so forth. But, most importantly, where it ties the IHS in, and I know you have paid close attention to, Senator, is that this opens the door for unsupervision for our children and which leads to the suicides and, you know, we just can't put a figure on this human life, and so forth.

So, you know, as you ask, how is this going—how are these budget effects going to affect Indian country? Well, in that area is one and, you know, of course, as you know, we maintain an economy in surrounding communities, but also just the economy within the communities of our reservation. You know, it's important to us just to have that IHS not only in mental health, the health budgets restored, but also our construction dollars in the IHS.

So I'm sure that we'll have other testimonies dealing with those treaty rights—it's been mentioned—and trust responsibility, but I'll just close with that. I do have more testimony to submit there to you, but, most of all, Senator, we want to thank you for your work and, most importantly, for your loyalty to Indian country. So thank you.

[Prepared statement of Mr. Strongheart-Lopez on behalf of Ron His Horse Is Thunder appears in appendix.]

Senator DORGAN. Matt, thank you very much. Your entire statement will be made a part of the record.

Let me ask first about Johnson O'Malley funds. Many people wouldn't know what Johnson O'Malley funds are. My understanding is that the Johnson O'Malley funds are allowing you to provide for after-school programs that provide for young students' tutoring and counseling after school, and I think it's an investment of about $80 per student. Can you tell me how the Johnson O'Malley funds are used and how many students on your reservation are affected? And, as you know, the President would zero out this program. What would the impact be on the children of your reservation? Mr. Davis.

Mr. DAVIS. Senator, at Turtle Mountain Johnson O'Malley funds the students that attend the surrounding public schools at St. John's, Dunseith Public, Rolla, Rolette, and those moneys come through the tribe, and roughly the number is around, I believe, 700, 800. The program has been decreased significantly over the years. It's on a formula basis. But the actual money does a lot of things. And I look at it, Johnson O'Malley is supplemental—exclusively supplemental.

When it was passed in 1934, there was a big provision for direct primary support of public schools, but that got done away with in the seventies and since then it's been only a supplemental program. And I consider it the type of program that helps us build self-esteem of students for areas that their parents cannot financially help them or else the school system can't actually help them. It could be after-school tutoring, it could be helping getting class pictures, because if you couldn't afford them, a kid's self-esteem would be hurt, for camps, both academic camps and other sports camps some kids get sent to. It's a variety of supplemental services.

Senator DORGAN. All right. But, also, it includes the principal after-school programs for children who in some cases have nowhere else to go and get tutoring in these programs. Is that correct?

That is correct.

Senator DORGAN. Chairman Hall.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Chairman, real brief, the way—as an old superintendent, the way I look at it is that it's so important for those kids that need the program for after-school activities, for extracurricular, including tutoring. For some kids, if they don't get tutoring, they're not going to pass. They need extra help in math or English or science, wherever their weakness is. For those kids that can afford tutoring or for those districts that have—real wealthy districts, those kids are going to make it.

On my reservation it's between 100 and 150 kids. It's about $80,000 to $100,000, the budget fluctuates. But those 100 to 125, 150 kids, they will be eliminated, I envision, because a lot of these

kids are at that place in their school where they can succeed or they can't succeed. So the program clearly makes a difference, and, again, I don't understand why it was eliminated when it makes such a tremendous difference for those kids and families.

Senator DORGAN. Was there any consultation with any of you by the administration, by the BIA about the potential elimination of the Johnson O'Malley program?

Mr. HALL. Absolutely none whatsoever. We were actually on record, the Tribal Budget Advisory Council, [TBAC]. That's where Ken and I represent the region, as well as Cecelia Fire Thunder from Pine Ridge. We represent the Aberdeen Area Office TBAC, which represents the 12 regions of Indian country. Nobody wanted this program cut. We're hearing from Alaska tribes, the Dakota tribes, the Oklahoma tribes—these areas are really concerned—and Mexico—are very concerned where most of the Johnson O'Malley funds are.

Senator DORGAN. Let me ask just 1 moment about contract health. The Indian Health Service has not been very forthcoming when I've asked them some pretty tough questions about this, and I understand why, but, you know, I have been asking them what are the unfunded health care requirements as a result of your budget. In other words, stated another way, what percent of the need for health care is being met under the trust responsibility here? I finally have gotten an answer from them, although it's not on the record, it's on background, but the answer is between 60 and 65 percent of the health care needs of American Indians are being met. Translated, 35 to 40 percent of the health care needs are not met.

Now, as I try to answer the question and, I guess, ask the question, what are the needs that are not being met? Part of it, I think, was in the testimony that you've given today. You talk about the contract health care waiting list. My understanding is that the funding for the contract health care—that is, health care that you're going to have to get at some other facility—is sufficiently low so that only a certain kind of life-threatening disease or life-threatening event is able to be covered and other things you just wait for. So tell me, what are those things that you can't get health services for? What are they waiting for? Because there's not sufficient money in the contract health care area?

Mr. HALL. Mr. Chairman, that's really a red flag for our tribes. Actually, we're funded at 45 percent. We did an analysis. Again, that's part of our JTAC funds that supplement what we can. But priority 1 is what you're alluding to, Mr. Chairman, and that has to be life- or limb-threatening in order for you to get a referral approved. Then there's a report done now in Aberdeen that's called Don't Get Sick After June. That means your budget runs out in June in contract health. This is the facts. And some of the folks are laughing in the audience. They're laughing because that's how crazy it is. This report really was done—I think it was targeted for Aberdeen. Don't Get Sick After June means they run out of contract health, so you've got to postpone that surgery, you've got to postpone that operation, so many people just simply go without.

And the troubling part of it is what happens when it's carried over to the next year? If I was a priority 1 client and it was after

June, I wouldn't get that surgery, so they may tell me I have to come back, you know, next—maybe October 1 or October 2 you could get that surgery. Well, what happens if my priority gets changed to priority 2 or 3, which I know it happens, and when it goes to 2 or 3, then I'm not eligible for contract health because only priority 1.

Senator DORGAN. And priority 1 is life and limb?

Mr. HALL. Yes.

Senator DORGAN. Myra, what are the examples of that?

Ms. PEARSON. Exactly what Chairman Hall said. IHS is prioritizing your illnesses and stuff and only if you're a priority 1 is when you're going to receive your health care.

But I also ran into this the other day when I was home. I get all those calls at my office, you know, when something is going on down there, but I got two calls and they both were in regards to diabetes. There was a young girl, 17 years old, who needed her insulin and then there's an elderly lady in her eighties that needed her insulin. When they went down there to get their medication for them, they told them they were out of the insulin. So it's things like that. You know, there's shortages on the medicine. Your priorities have to be dealt with either in Grand Forks or here in Bismarck. Grand Forks don't take any of the people from Spirit Lake anymore because they haven't paid the bills and now they're referring them down here to Bismarck.

Senator DORGAN. And they haven't paid the bills because of contract health payments. Let me ask you this. Under contract health, under the old system, if you actually went and got the service, then somehow contract health didn't pay for it, isn't that a circumstance where it comes back and ruins the credit of the individual that got the service?

Ms. PEARSON. Your names are entered into the credit bureau.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Chairman, could I just make one real brief comment?

Senator DORGAN. Yes, Tex.

Mr. HALL. I have tribal members, that they stop by my house because the debt collector—because IHS has not paid for their medical bill even though they were approved but ran out of money. They were garnishing their income tax that comes into their bank account. I've had ladies—men and women come in with their five or six kids. I think they just did that just so I can see who's not getting that money, that income tax return.

Senator DORGAN. That's shameful. Ken.

Mr. DAVIS. Well, a couple cases that I've had—under contract care there has been a few and I've been unsuccessful. We've had some tribal members who have been off the reservation and all of a sudden this one lady had certain abdominal pains and she came into the emergency ward here in Minot and she ended up getting hospitalized. The doctors determined that she needed to be put under surveillance, and she was, she went back and requested for coverage. They have a 72-hour rule. They turned her down and said it wasn't life-threatening.

You've got a whole bunch of specialists also, whether it's a knee surgery, whether it's a hip replacement, whether it's a foot, and in some cases detoxification—individuals have to be sent to other

places for detox. Sometimes it's youth placements for mental health reasons or other reasons, but, again, contract care moneys are not available so they have a waiting list, and those waiting lists are never reached anymore because priority 1's are all they do.

Senator DORGAN. Let me ask which of you have any community youth centers? That issue came up when I held the hearings on youth suicide. Matt, does your reservation have a community youth center?

Mr. STRONGHEART-LOPEZ. I believe we do, Senator. It's the Boys and Girls Club. And, you know, we've, of course, continued to find funding and activity for them in this facility. But, again, I would have to pull on staff to get figures of what kind of numbers are run through the facility, but I think, also, we need to develop—we need to advance that also into the youth—you know, not just the younger children, but into the youth, as well.

Senator DORGAN. But I don't believe you have a significant youth facility, do you, at Standing Rock——

Mr. STRONGHEART-LOPEZ. No.

Senator DORGAN [continuing]. Where you can conduct substantial organized activities? Let me ask you a question. What is the unemployment rate at Standing Rock. Do you know?

Mr. STRONGHEART-LOPEZ. Well, the unemployment is going to run between 60 and 70 percent. This is of enrolled members who are able and willing to work, but don't—but can't have that job.

I just wanted to mention something, Senator, on this with the IHS and the staffing of these facilities and the doctors. One of the things, we know we're running into patients having lack of services with patients, and so forth, but, you know, we also lack the number of doctors to provide that service, as well. It's similar to the BIA law enforcement thing, as I understand it. But I just want to make mention of that, that we do have that lack of doctors. And many of our facilities run into problems with that in the weekend service, as well, with the IHS.

Senator DORGAN. Let me ask, if I can, of Chairman Davis, what is the unemployment rate on your reservation?

Mr. DAVIS. The last labor force report that was done had it around 65 percent, Senator.

Senator DORGAN. Okay. And I'm going to come back to that and ask about economic development. That is the reason I'm asking that question. Do you have a significant community youth center on your reservation?

Mr. DAVIS. No; we don't. We have been in a planning process and I've included some in testimony here, but it was a priority of my administration that I wanted to address this particular need, and we're in the process right now working with an architectural firm. We've laid out the program, we're doing the initial design of it—or we're doing the fund-raising now. And the intent there, I'll just give you an example. I've got a grandson of mine that I raised, 15 years old. Every time I wanted to take him to the swimming pool in the summertime, I had to take him off the reservation. Every time in the wintertime I wanted to take him to an ice-skating rink, I had to take him off the reservation. Every time I wanted to take him to a movie, I've got to take him off the reservation. Not everybody, with the high rate of poverty we have, has that type of re-

source and ability to do that with their children, so their children don't get those opportunities. And we realize there's a segment of our population that were like me when I was growing up, that were not a part of the—I call it the reservation middle class the reservation has. They are the ones that are stuck away in the bush or they're stuck away in some of these housing projects and they're not into the mainstream of youth activities, and we need to reach those kids because those are the ones that are vulnerable for drugs and other delinquencies.

Senator DORGAN. Myra, do you have a youth community center of any significance on the reservation?

Ms. PEARSON. No; we've got a recreation center in each of the districts, but like Standing Rock said, we're working with the Boys and Girls Club, which we've only started working with them. They've been around, but because they didn't, you know, combine the two programs, they finally started working with us, and they agreed to come into the tribe as part of the tribal programs.

But, again, we have a lot of youth out there that, because of transportation, aren't able to get into these centers for activities. We did have a little $9,000 grant that we were able to go and buy some computers that were set-up in each of the districts so the students can use them for perhaps after-school tutoring and stuff.

Senator DORGAN. And what is the unemployment rate on your reservation?

Ms. PEARSON. Oh, it was 65 and I think it's higher now. We just had—we had Golden Eagle Wireless now almost completely shut down.

Senator DORGAN. Tex, what is the unemployment rate of the Three Affiliated Tribes?

Mr. HALL. It's about 50 percent, Mr. Chairman. But like the other tribes have mentioned, North Dakota and South Dakota tribes, the average is 75 percent. We just looked at those numbers. This is the poorest region in the entire country and one of the largest land base, just under 9 million acres for 16 tribes in the Dakotas and Nebraska, and probably just under 300,000, so it's one of the most populated and biggest land base regions and the most allottees and landowners, but yet still economic development has not come to our region.

Senator DORGAN. Let me ask you about economic development because that has a pretty big impact on the question of what social services are needed. You know, obviously a good job that pays well is a pretty significant part of someone's life, allowing them to do a lot of the other things, and yet with high unemployment rates, because there's just a lack of employment opportunities in many of these areas, there then is increasing claim on the human services needs. Can you just give me a brief description of your view of economic development in the future on your reservation?

Mr. HALL. Well, thank you for the question. I really—as the tribal chairman for quite some time now, since the beginning I've always focused—my focus has always been on creating a real economy, a self-sustaining economy that includes both tribal businesses and individual entrepreneurs because, in my opinion, that's what builds Main Street, and many of our communities now have a community center and they now have a small convenience store with

gasoline sometimes. Every now and then we get a daily newspaper in some of our isolated communities. And we just started getting—in my community, Mandaree, we're just now starting to get a regular daily newspaper, so we're really proud of that, even though many of us still haul water and we're really isolated. So economic development is critical because——

Senator DORGAN. Can I stop you at that point? You talk about hauling water and I've heard this discussion before just in recent days. Are there a fair number of people hauling water on your reservation?

Mr. HALL. Just under 300, Mr. Chairman.

Senator DORGAN. 300 citizens are hauling their water for their daily water needs?

Mr. HALL. Yes; they are. Only the communities—the six communities on Fort Berthold in part of the Dakota Water Resources Act are hooked up. The outlying rural houses are not. The water pipelines have not reached. And, of course, that's under your leadership with the 70 million that was authorized for the Three Affiliated Tribes.

Senator DORGAN. Right.

Mr. HALL. So hard work and finding good jobs is critical, especially when you can't get sick after June with IHS. Everybody looks for trying to get a Blue Cross and Blue Shield medical card. Many of our people don't have a 401(k) or a 403(b), that's just absent, because that's like chocolate on an ice cream cone. A lot of our people never accomplish a 401(k) or a 403(b). So we're looking for real jobs that pay real good wages. And, of course, we have a couple of construction companies that are looking at 8(a) contracts.

And, Mr. Chairman, I understand that the 8(a) USDA program is under attack by many people in Congress that want to eliminate it that don't understand for those tribes where real gaming has not really been a real huge impact for us out in rural North Dakota, the 8(a) program is critical because it gives you preference to your tribal or individual business to get contracts. And so, of course, Mandaree Enterprise Corporation, MHA Systems and our Buffalo Enterprise and all of our businesses are really dependent on that 8(a) program to supply the USDA or the school hot lunch program.

But equity—getting equity for finance—enhanced financing just continues and just business development continues to be a real tough battle for us.

Senator DORGAN. Myra, are there people hauling water on your reservation for their daily water needs, as well?

Ms. PEARSON. Out toward the western part of the reservation, yes, for drinking water, and some of them don't use it for doing the laundry or house chores or anything like that.

Senator DORGAN. Ken, what about your reservation, do you have people hauling water still?

Mr. DAVIS. Senator, we've got a number of people that are on a waiting list for water and sewer, and so, yes, they must be hauling water because they don't have it hooked up. So we got a rural water system on the reservation, it's a fairly good delivery system, but, still, if you don't have the sewage system set up, it doesn't help you a heck of a lot.

Mr. STRONGHEART-LOPEZ. Senator, yes, we do have—we are hauling water here on Standing Rock. And we're also looking at, again, furthering development of our water lines, water resources there. And so we do, also.

Senator DORGAN. All right. Could I just get a brief description of the fire prevention program and what impact that has on your funding of the reservations? Tex, you mentioned the fire prevention program, and I don't know if you did, Ken, or not. Do you want to tell me?

Mr. DAVIS. The program that's targeted for elimination is community fire protection. That's structural programs. And at Turtle Mountain the tribe runs the structural fire protection program. Years ago we used to have to rely exclusively on the facility management, planned management of the BIA. They were the only one in town that had a fire truck. So about 20 years ago we had some tribal members that started the department and ended up combining the BIA program with the tribal program, and we get about $30,000 a year to run a portion of the program. We get funding from other sources, but the backbone of it has always been the money on TBA and structural fire, 24-hour coverage reservationwide for any home fires, and we've had them. We've lost tribal members and babies, and so forth, in some of the home fires. Just recently a couple years ago we lost a couple children. But this program is a public safety program and, you know, there's no other resource available to replace it.

Senator DORGAN. I want to ask you just for 1 moment about hunger and the issue of feeding programs on the reservation. Some years ago then Congressman Tony Hall from Ohio and I held a gathering at the Standing Rock Reservation about the feeding programs, the food that was coming from USDA, and particularly it was canned meats and other things, that we were doing some work on the quality of it, which was horrible quality, very high in fat, and so on. Tell me now about the programs that would address hunger on the reservation, and is there hunger, how effectively is that addressed?

Mr. DAVIS. Well, we have Meals on Wheels for elders, which is not adequately funded. We've got the USDA hot lunch programs at the schools and we also got the commodity programs, and then we have the food stamp programs. And, of course, the intent of the administration is to totally eliminate the commodity program in USDA that comes through the State to the reservations.

And the problem there, Senator, is that the people right now have a choice between going and applying for food stamps or USDA commodities. And there's a sliding scale for the food stamp program, so you can get, say, $200 of food stamps or you can get $25. On the commodities, if you're eligible, you get everything. So a lot of individuals that just get a small amount of eligibility, instead go under the commodities program so they get the full amount for their families. And the program has improved drastically over the years.

I grew up on commodities and, you know, I know that the cheese and the flour and the fry bread and the lard, and so forth, attributed to my obesity. But the program nutritionally has improved

drastically over the years, and I am opposed to any elimination of the USDA commodity program by the administration.

Senator DORGAN. Ken, I hope you're starting to substitute for that lard. We've learned a lot since the old days and get that lard out of the diet they tell us, I guess, anyway. Thank you very much, Ken, for that. Myra, the feeding programs, the commodity and hunger programs.

Ms. PEARSON. We have the same programs, but the only thing is our elderly feeding program is—you know, they don't get enough money to provide food year-round for the elders, and they do deliver most of the meals again because of transportation, but we do supplement them somewhat, too, to see that they make it through to the end of the fiscal year.

The schools have the hot lunch feeding program, but, again, some of the kids, because of the mere fact that, you know, the applications aren't turned in, they have to pay the full price for some of those meals. A lot of our children attend school off the reservation to the Minnewaukan, Warwick and Sheyenne School Districts, Devils Lake School District, and they also have to pay for their meals when they attend there. If it's not full cost, then they pay, you know, part of the cost of their hot lunch, so we try to supplement in those areas.

Senator DORGAN. All right. Tex.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Chairman, can I briefly go back to the fire?

Senator DORGAN. Yes.

Mr. HALL. The fire program has about 185,000 for our tribe. It employs two fire people per segment, so it's 12 total. That's the only fire program that we have. It's for grassland mainly, but it also protects home, because if that's the only water truck in town, that's what you have to use when there's a fire. We tried to apply for the Homeland Security grants that come down for a nice, state-of-the-art fire truck, and their answer was, well, you don't have a structural program. You just have a grassland program. So if we lose our grassland program, there will be nothing out there. So I'm really concerned about not having any fire protection at all in our community.

On the commodity program we probably have over 1,000 people that use the commodity program, so it is a critical program. And kind of like Ken, I went to college on commodities because at Dickinson State you only had a meal program Monday through Friday. You didn't get a meal on Saturday, Sunday, so if it wasn't for those commodities, I wouldn't have stayed in college. You either eat or you go home because there's no food there on a weekend program at Dickinson State—well, back in the seventies, anyway. Maybe they do now.

But, anyway, over 1,000 people use this program, and it's really improved tremendously. Our program—Joe Henry runs our commodities program and works with Red Gates down at Standing Rock. And it's really a more healthy product now. It's got real fruit, real vegetables. It eliminated that chopped meat with all that lard in it and it's got margarine instead of butter and it's got real brand-name cereal. So the work that you and Congressman Hall did must have really completely turned that program around, be-

cause I remember what it was like in the seventies and it doesn't look like that today.

Senator DORGAN. You know, Red Gates is one of the reasons that we decided to go down to Standing Rock and take a look at those commodities and meet with people, and I remember Tony Hall's reaction when we opened up those cans and those jars and we saw the kind of meat that was in it and the lard, and so on. But he's been working on those issues for a long, long time—Mr. Gates has.

I want to ask if there are other issues that you would like to comment on before we adjourn? And I want to say a couple other things, too. The issue of human needs, especially with respect to the choices by the Congress and the President, the issue of human needs is really very important. And sometimes in the Congress, especially at a national level, this is debated in the guise of statistics, but it really is not about statistics. It's about families. It's about people who are living in poverty. It's about people who seem hopeless and helpless and wonder how they're going to get out of the circumstances they're in. And it's about a country deciding to pay attention to those that are struggling. And there's no greater need, I think, than the need that exists on Indian reservations, and part of our responsibility, I think, is to help with economic development. Part of it is funding education. Economic development is about jobs. Education is about opportunities. But at the start you also have to take care of the basic human needs, and that's why I wanted to have some discussion from you about the issues of hunger and poverty and school children needing tutoring, the basics. You've got to take care of the basics first and then work on the other issues.

On health care, I know that there are statistics I've seen that say to us—we have a trust responsibility for health care for Native Americans. That's not an option. That's a trust responsibility that our country inherited, agreed to, and we spend, I believe, about one-half as much per person on health care for American Indians as we do for those who are incarcerated in American prisons. We also have a health care responsibility for those who are incarcerated. They're our charge, our responsibility. So we spend twice as much per person for them as we do for health care for American Indians. And it describes, I think, how underfunded the Indian Health Service is in a circumstance where we meet, Tex, you say on your 68 reservation, 40 or 45 percent, the national figures I think are probably around 60 percent, but where we don't meet 40 percent of the health care needs, and there are people on reservations walking around today who have a condition that is chronic and painful and difficult, it may not threaten their life and limb, but it desperately needs treatment and they're not getting the treatment because they're told they're not priority 1 and contract health service won't pay for it. That's shameful in my judgment. And this country needs to do much, much better than that.

I would like to offer each of you the opportunity to make any closing comments, and let me start with you, Matt.

Mr. STRONGHEART-LOPEZ. Thank you, Senator. I just want to thank you for your comments, as well, and your concerns for the human needs in Indian country and your concern for the economics, and so forth, and poverty levels. You know, to tie all these

things together, you know, we see that poverty level as a cutting-off place if one should choose to get that job in construction, or so forth, that then begins to make him ineligible for our programs that we have set up in the system for them and it gives them—they lose that desire and that drive to continue on, and so we need to adjust that poverty level somehow within that government.

So I just wanted to mention back again also for the economics that on Standing Rock, as you know, we've been 3 years in construction with our streets and highways programs. The win thing for our tribal government in that is that it provided those jobs for our enrolled members in that timeframe—in that 3-year timeframe.

And we just want to thank you again, Senator, for your work and your input on that, and I know we have looked for target projects of that magnitude in other areas and trying to resurrect the bridge over Oahe project in looking at trying to see if the same results as the Government raising that poverty level and the employment issues and also helping the people meet the needs of their health insurance, and so forth, so it's important for us to look at that great project, and I know it's been a sore point at times and we need to understand that if we can pursue that, it will increase and it will grow our economy here at Standing Rock.

Senator DORGAN. Matt, we tried very hard for a period of time almost 10 years ago where there was, I think, a window to try to get that done and we were unsuccessful in working with the tribe. As you know, there were burial ground issues, and every time we thought we were making progress, another issue was raised. And I think, you know, we may well be beyond that, but we'll talk about it. It is an authorized project, but has not ever been funded, and we've had two occasions where we worked pretty hard to see if we could get something started and it just—the tribe was impossibly divided, as you know, on a wide range of things and it just took forever and ever and ever, and I finally said, you know, we've got to some closure and it was impossible to do. We will continue to talk about that at some point in the future. Thank you very much.

Thank you. In our instance, as we grow, as we mature in Indian country, we appreciate that. Thank you.

Chairman Davis.

Mr. DAVIS. I didn't get a chance to comment much on the economic development, but when you compare the unemployment of Indian tribes in North Dakota and the State as a whole, there is a horrific difference. We're not making these figures up, Senator. I've given you statistics here that shows that we had over 1,400 people last year on welfare assistance at Turtle Mountain, plus there was another eight to nine hundred individuals over in Rolette County that got TANF assistance. So the figures are not made up. It's a real world out there.

We have been getting a lot of lip service about economic development from the Administration and they say it's a priority. Of course, they look at our gaming enterprises and think, well, things are all hunky-dory, everybody is making a whole bunch of money, but, as we've shown you this morning, that is not really the case.

I do think that the Indian Finance Act of 1974 had authorizations in there. Of course, no money has been appropriated in a couple of those vital areas, particularly the grant program and the di-

rect loan program, and I know that there was a sense that those were failures, but I'm going to tell you they were not failures. They were Indian people's first opportunities to go into business, private commercial businesses in Indian country. That generation planted the seed for what's going on today for more business conscious, for more entrepreneurial conscious and that money was not wasted. And so if we're going to continue—and I think Indian tribes are going to have to compete in the global economy, starting in the state and going national and going global, and we're doing some of that right now with some of the businesses, and with assistance from yourself and Senator McCain and Senator Inouye, some of the contracts we've gotten on a national basis.

I want to say one more thing in closing, that we had a celebration 1 year ago at Turtle Mountain that we commemorated the last signing of our agreement, the McCumber agreement, on February 15, 1905, with the United States of America, and at that time we had no welfare at Turtle Mountain, we didn't have any jails at Turtle Mountain, and it was only 100 years ago. Our people were fairly self-sufficient and we just went through a drastic change in our way of life. We were a buffalo tribe. And the last 100 years have been a shameful history for people in many areas. And I think that I've given you information in my presentation about some very vital statistics, and over an extended period of time now vital programs for us have not fulfilled the needs of our people. You only have to go to the U.S. Office of Civil Rights report on a crisis to know that Indian people in this country have not participated in our fair share of the public support of needed programs.

One last comment. I belong to the Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairman's Health Board, and we have provided you additional testimony here today to answer some of the questions you had about the priority 1, and so forth.

Senator DORGAN. Chairman Davis, thank you.

Mr. DAVIS. Thank you very much and your committee for your presence today.

Senator DORGAN. Chairman Davis, thank you very much. Chairwoman Pearson.

Ms. PEARSON. I, too, Senator Dorgan, would like to thank you for allowing us here today and hope you've listened to all our needs and our priorities and stuff, but at the same time life goes on, and we as Indian people, Native Americans, we have a sense of humor that, you know, we'll laugh our way through this and hopefully that we come out on the good end of it.

I was on the council before and things haven't changed much since then. I come back to address the same needs that I left with back then, and hopefully this time I'll stay a little longer to see something get done. It's not an easy job and I've got some good people helping me, as well as my counterparts here at United Tribes. I also want to thank Dr. Gipp for all the assistance and help that he's given me and for the great job he's doing at United Tribes, and I hope you can do all you can to assist him. My voice is going out a little bit so I better quit.

But I do have some good things that have happened at Spirit Lake. We are going to have our own propane company. One of our enrolled members have started that up. We've got the wind energy

that one of Chairman Hall's members have come in to help us with, and hopefully we can get that going.

We have our commodity program that we talked about, and what we do there, and I should have mentioned it, but we do process our buffalo. We have a 200-head herd of buffalo that we use and we process and that is taken down to the commodity house and it's stored there for our diabetics. Our diabetic people are allowed to go down there and get what they can because it's supposed to be good for their diets.

And as far as our fire department, I want to remind everyone that the reason why we got that fire department was because of the disaster that, you know, took the lives of three children and we didn't have a fire department then, and because of the deaths of those children, our housing authority with the fire hall finally made it a reality to have a structural fire department. The day that those children died there was a fire truck sitting across the street that was a BIA fire truck, and because of their restrictions on where they service, they weren't allowed to put that fire out, but when they did put it out, those children were still in that house and that was the reason why our fire department was started back then. And I hope you can give us some support there in retaining that fire department. We're down to a minimum now, too, but if we can keep it without a problem.

I think I've said enough and, again, I would like to thank you all for allowing me to sit here today and express my views. Thank you.

Senator DORGAN. Thank you very much. Chairman Hall.

Mr. HALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a comment on two things, the human side of things as you mentioned and then I want to mention on S. 2078.

I think of the old people as we were all talking today. I think about our ancestors. And there's something about our tribes, we never forget where we came from, from our fathers and mothers and our grandparents and our great-grandparents and our chiefs that settled this country and lived here thousands of years and how they must have felt when they entered into treaties with the United States. They weren't certain in 1851 what that meant. But when the United States came and said if you sign this peace treaty, as long as the grass grows and the wind blows and the water flows, we'll provide for your health, education and welfare and you can trust the great white father in Washington. Then, of course, we know what happened, they took the land.

And then in 1948 I think of our relatives, too, that they said they signed the Garrison Dam with a heavy heart and it split our people almost 50–50, those that said, well, we got to trust the United States, we got to trust them. If they flood us, they say they're going to provide for a new health facility they're going to provide for a new education facility and it was half of our people that didn't believe them. They said remember the treaty in 1851. They never lived up to that and we have to think of our children so, no we're not going to support the Garrison Dam, so it divided us completely in two. And now we're coming back around, we're seeing a budget that takes away from school construction, a budget that takes away from facilities construction, a budget that takes away from eco-

nomic development, a budget that wipes out Johnson O'Malley for after-school children.

And getting back to health care, Mr. Chairman, you mentioned the prisoners and there's a joke in Indian country if you want to get a surgery you've got to commit a crime, you know because you'll get a surgery there.

You know, that priority 1 and priority 2 and 3 is all hogwash. That's rationed health care. That's not providing real health care for people. Our people are prisoners after 5 o'clock or on weekends because you can't get access to the clinic after 5 o'clock or you can't get access to that clinic on Saturday or Sunday, so if you've got a gallbladder, tough luck because that's not going to be approved for your priority 1 because that's a priority 2 or priority 3. Or if your mother needs a mammogram or your grandmother, your aunt needs a mammogram, tough luck, she's got to wait until she's got cancer before she gets approval for priority 1, then we know it's too late.

I could go on and on, Mr. Chairman, and you know these things. I'm basically talking for the record, you know, because I know you understand the needs of our tribes. But I think about those things about our ancestors and about how they would think about where we've come. We make progress and then we go backward, and we're going backward in this 2007 budget, so I wonder not only about today, but I wonder about 2008 and 2009 and I wonder when I'm not in this chair, what is it going to be like in 10, 20 years from now, where are we going to be. So I just wanted to state those things and it really concerns me about where we're going and why we're not providing for our people.

And then in closing I just want to mention, Mr. Chairman, on McCain's S. 2078, the North Dakota tribes are totally opposed to it. It appears that Senator McCain wants to make the NIGC the BIA of Indian gaming and that totally goes against self-determination. We have tribal gaming commissioners that all have been approved. We have State compacts that the attorney general of North Dakota and the state have negotiated and we've provide regulation, yet it appears 2078 wants to completely put the NIGC on every tribal council. That's basically—it would be like the BIA managing every piece of our land. The NIGC now under this S. 2078 would manage every aspect of gaming, and I think that would be an economic detriment.

And if somebody committed some wrongdoing in some other State, why do we have to pay that price in North Dakota when we need those dollars to replace what those charts are saying that we're losing under the Federal Government? So we ask for your consideration in that, Mr. Chairman.

It's been a great honor to testify here today in North Dakota at United Tribes Technical College with you as the chairman of the committee today.

Senator DORGAN. Chairman Hall, thank you very much. We will have in the future discussion about Senator McCain's bill. In fact, there will be a hearing on that very soon, and I will have a discussion with the tribal chairs in North Dakota about it. It's a very important issue.

I want to just make one final comment. We have necessarily been talking about what's wrong and how to fix it today, and when you do that at a hearing, you talk about what isn't working. I held a meeting in Minot once, among many town meetings, hundreds and hundreds that I've had over the years, and started the meeting—it's the only one I've ever done this way—I said to the people who came to the meeting, I want to do something a little different. We're going to have a town meeting to talk about our lives and what's going on. I don't want anyone to do anything other than talk about what's right in their lives, what works in their lives. We can't criticize anything. We just want to talk about what's right. And it was very hard for all of us to do that because our nature is to figure out what's wrong and how to fix it. But it was very interesting, as well.

After about 15 minutes where I said, no, no, you can't say that, no, no, you can't do that, pretty soon they would have to start thinking, I had this wonderful teacher that had a profound impact on my life or I've got a person down the street that has this business, it's the most unbelievable person you've ever met, and pretty soon people were talking about what really works in their lives.

Now, we could, because we're talking about what's wrong, and we have four tribal leaders here, we could have spent the time perhaps differently, and my guess is if we had allotted a couple of hours for you to talk about what's working and what's right, my guess is you can tell me about the 41-year-old mother of four that graduates from a tribal college against all the odds, you can tell me about all those success stories. And I just don't want the fact that these hearings—the nature of these hearings is about what's wrong and how to fix it, I don't want that fact to obscure the leadership that exists and the interests of individuals, as well as tribal leaders, to better their lives and to invest in making life better for themselves. That's going on all around the country on reservations and it's going on right here at United Tribes.

So I want to end by saying I think there are enormous challenges, and there are misjudgments being made about priorities and choices in these budgets, but there are also some really good things happening, and if we work together I think all of us can amplify those good things and build on them to create a much better and brighter future. That's what we owe our children and that's what we owe our elders and we inherited that responsibility. There's nobody—nobody better to do that than us. That's why we're here at this time and it's our job.

This hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:38 p.m. the hearing was concluded.]

APPENDIX

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN MCCAIN, U.S. SENATOR FROM ARIZONA, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Good morning. I'm sorry that I cannot be with you this morning, but want to thank my friend and colleague, Senator Dorgan, for holding this hearing, and thank the witnesses for testifying on the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2007.

While we must all be concerned by our country's burgeoning budget deficit, we must also be mindful of the Federal Government's trust and moral obligations to Native Americans.

In evaluating the budget request against this backdrop, I am disturbed by many of the cuts that have been proposed to programs that already fall far short of meeting needs. I look forward to reviewing the testimony from today's hearing.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. KENT CONRAD, U.S. SENATOR FROM NORTH DAKOTA

I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to Senator Dorgan for holding this important hearing on the President's fiscal year 2007 budget request and its impact on the tribes in North Dakota. Thank you to each of the tribal leaders who is here today to present testimony.

While I am unable to attend today's hearing, I did want to share some of my observations and concerns with this budget. Overall I must say that I am deeply disappointed with the President's budget and his disregard of the Federal Government's clear trust responsibility to American Indians. This budget fails in every conceivable way to address the growing unmet needs in education, housing, and health care.

I am very troubled that for a fifth straight year the budget fails to provide funding for United Tribes Technical College [UTTC]. This administration simply has no justifiable reason for eliminating its funding.

For 37 years UTTC has been providing a quality education for many across the Great Plains. The college has had the strong support of past administrations to provide educational services to students and families. Only when this administration took office did this college, its students, and faculty come under attack. It is hard to comprehend why the administration wants to close this college which, has an 87-percent retention rate, a 95-percent placement rate, and a return on Federal investment of 20 to 1.

The BIA argues UTTC's funding through the Department of Education is sufficient to meet the needs of the college. However, the funding provided through the BIA accounts for one-half of UTTC's annual operating budget and is critical to keeping its doors open.

More than 1,000 "real" people are impacted by this cut. It is shameful that this budget would again yank the rug out from under these students.

On a more positive note, after several consecutive years of deep cuts, the administration is finally recognizing the importance of tribal colleges.

Tribal colleges provide hope and opportunity to thousands who might not otherwise get the chance to achieve a higher education. For far too long, this administration had short-changed these successful colleges, providing less and less funding. This budget takes a positive step in providing the necessary resources to support these valuable institutions; however, I and many others will be working to boost funding for the tribal colleges even more as the budget and appropriations process gets underway.

The President's budget is also very troubling in the area of American Indian housing. Housing is a basic fundamental need. Yet, the reservations here in North Dakota are plagued by a chronic shortage of decent, affordable housing. The President's answer is to cut funding for Indian housing block grants, even though the needs reach $1 billion.

Finally, let me say a few words about health care, because the lack of adequate funding in the President's budget is very concerning to me.

In 2004, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights issued a report on the Native American health care system. The Commission's report noted "persistent discrimination and neglect continue to deprive Native Americans of a health system sufficient to provide health care equivalent to that provided to the vast majority of Americans." It is very troubling that in the 21" Century Native Americans still do not have the access to the quality health care to which they are entitled.

Unfortunately, the President's budget fails to bridge this gap. It fails to address the increasing health care demands due to population growth and increasing medical costs, which have resulted in ballooning unmet needs.

In North Dakota, where certain kinds of health services are not available through IHS, tribes rely on contract health care. However, because of the limited funding available to purchase contract care, a patient must fall within the priority 1 category, which means the patient must have a life threatening illness or injury to receive care.

At present, only one-half of the needs in contract health are being met, leaving many without access to the care they need. The President's response is to only include about a $37-million increase for contract health care, hardly enough to expand services beyond priority 1 patients.

The road to reverse these cuts will be difficult. Yet, if we continue down this road, the gap between needs and funding to meet those needs will continue to enlarge to a point of no return. We simply cannot allow this to happen. We cannot continue to ignore the Federal Government's trust responsibilities to tribes.

Again, I thank the witnesses for being here today and look forward to your input on how we can make real progress on these serious challenges.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DAVID GIPP, PRESIDENT, UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Welcome, Senator Dorgan, members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, tribal leaders, guests, and members of the public. Thank you, Senator, for allowing me to make an opening statement on behalf of United Tribes Technical College at today's historic hearing regarding the impact of the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2007 on Native Americans. United Tribes is honored to be able to host the hearing today on the campus of United Tribes Technical College.

As you know, of course, the core funding for United Tribes Technical College provided through our Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act [Public Law 93–638] contract was once again left out of the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2007. This represents 6 years in a row that funding for our institution has been omitted. Yet, the Self-Determination Act requires that the President request the funds each year a valid contract is in effect. This year is the third year of a 3-year contracting cycle for us, and we are now a self-determination contractor with mature status, which should make renewal of the contract automatic. Yet, these legal obligations were ignored in the President's proposed fiscal year 2007 budget.

Leaving us out of the budget for fiscal year 2007 is now even more painful, because we serve over twice as many students as we did just 2 years ago, and yet we have not received any increase in funding. Our student count for this school year is over 1,000 students, and we serve nearly 400 children of students and staff in our day care and K–8 elementary school facilities. Thus, we are doing twice as much on the same amount of funds. Our cost per student has decreased dramatically, but we cannot sustain the present level of students on the same amount of funding.

Without the core funding we have received every year since our founding in 1969, the impact of the President's budget on us could be severe. We are very thankful

and grateful that in previous years, largely through the efforts of you, Senator Dorgan, our core funding has been restored.

But we should not have to go through this exercise every year, as we know that we provide a vital service to many, many, tribal citizens and their families as they seek a solid education and seek to improve their lives. Our retention rate is more than 85 percent. We place nearly all of our graduates in meaningful jobs they would not otherwise have been able to obtain if they had not come here for there education. Based on a recent survey, verified independently, the return on the investment the United States makes in our institution is 20 to 1. For every dollar invested by the United States at United Tribes, the students who graduate return $20 over the course of their lifetimes to the U.S. Treasury. Few investments anywhere have that kind of rate of return.

Therefore, we are requesting $ 4.5 million in direct funding from the BIA as our core funding under the Self-Determination Act for fiscal year 2007, an increase of $ 1.05 million from our current funded amount. We believe the BIA would be providing that kind of funding if it were operating this program, and more. This amount remains a modest request. For fiscal year 1978, we requested $2.75 million for the core funding of our self-determination contract with the BIA. In today's dollars, that amount would be more than $10 million. We are truly doing more with less money, but that cannot continue indefinitely.

Just as important as our core funding is the need for housing for our students. Most of our students do not have funding for off-campus housing, and we prefer that they stay on campus as much as possible, because all of our services our here—cafeteria, elementary school, security and day care, among other things. For fiscal year 2007, we are asking for a facilities grant of $5 million to enable us to provide housing for as many as 100 students now housed off campus. For fiscal year 2008, we anticipate making a similar request for facilities, to begin to assist us both with our new campus and to keep up the buildings we are now using, many of which are more than 100 years old. For operational funds, we will also request an amount similar to what we are requesting for fiscal year 2007, and further, we expect that we will finally be put back in the President's budget.

And that is just the impact of the President's budget on United Tribes.

I know that there are many other issues that tribal leaders in this region want to talk about today, and I will conclude shortly. But I would be remiss if I didn't mention briefly three other areas, as well.

First, we need to make sure our tribal colleges in general are adequately funded. It is unconscionable that the President's budget once again treats tribal colleges as the stepchildren of the higher education system in this country. Operating without a tax base, they receive less than one-half per student of what non-tribal publicly supported community colleges receive. The tribal colleges provide critical pathways for tribal citizens learning new skills, and are often exactly the training ground needed for students to be able to attend 4-year institutions. And not only do tribal colleges train tribal citizens, they also serve, most often without additional funding, non-Indians from the local communities.

Second, obtaining enough safe, comfortable and affordable housing remains a critical need for the citizens of most our tribal nations in the Great Plains. The President's budget is woefully inadequate in this regard. Housing has always been a fundamental trust responsibility, under the treaties signed with our tribal nations in this region. People are still on waiting lists for housing for up to 20 years, living two and three families to a house, and that includes tribal citizens who can afford to pay for housing. The President's budget also eliminates a key program for improving existing housing stock; the Housing Improvement Program [HIP]. Without adequate housing, economic development that creates jobs does not happen. Without adequate housing, many social problems will continue unabated. Housing is another tremendously effective investment, if done correctly. We have seen too often in Indian country how cutting corners on safe and affordable housing, and forcing people to do without adequate housing, creates negative social and economic impacts. The problem with black mold in our region is but one example of inadequate housing construction techniques.

Third, we need to insure that appropriate health care is provided to all tribal citizens of our region. Once again, the President's budget does not even keep pace with inflation in this area. A Federal prisoner receives twice as much funding for health care as a tribal citizen receives from the Indian Health Service. Further, if a tribal citizen from the Cheyenne River Tribe is living in Bismarck, that citizen ought to be able to receive health care in Bismarck and expect that the Indian Health Service will pick up the cost if he or she cannot afford insurance or the cost of that health care. Some of our staff have had their credit ruined because of the lack of IHS funds for off-reservation care. We also need adequate funding for our injury

prevention programs across the United States. Too many tribal citizens die needlessly from preventable accidents. Health care, like housing, is a fundamental treaty obligation that ought to fulfilled.

I know there are many other issues that tribal leaders will be speaking about. Again, welcome to all, and Senator Dorgan, we thank you again for your continued support of our efforts at United Tribes Technical College.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. EARL POMEROY, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM NORTH DAKOTA

First, I would like to thank you and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs for holding these hearings. The Federal budget contains many programs that are important to North Dakota's tribes. I want to thank the tribal leaders for being in attendance today and discussing these issues.

With strong leadership, North Dakota's American Indian Tribes have worked hard to meet the needs of their people. North Dakota's tribes have developed strong tribal colleges, which help lay the foundation for growth and renewal on reservations. North Dakota's tribes also have improved the infrastructure in the region with the opening of the new Four Bears Bridge and procuring the National Scenic Byway designation for Standing Rock Scenic Byway. However, North Dakota's tribes still face many unique issues. The inflexibility and underfunding of No Child Left Behind has made its implementation in BIA schools in North Dakota difficult, Also, American Indians' life expectancy is 5.9 years less than that of the total U.S. populations and suicide is the second-leading cause of death for American Indian and Alaskan Native youth aged 15–24.

The Federal Government has an obligation to assist American Indian tribes with these needs. Crucial programs for American Indians must receive adequate funding. The President's request would reduce the overall BIA budget by 1 percent and cuts funding to many important programs ranging from the Indian Child Welfare Act to funding for tribal courts. In addition, funding for the construction of education facilities has been cut by over 60 percent and construction for Indian Health Services facilities construction has been cut by almost 10 percent. Finally, the United Tribes Technical College received no funding under the administration's budget proposal.

While North Dakota's tribes are working diligently toward improving the state of their tribes, the Federal Government has a clear responsibility to assist tribes in addressing these issues. It is my hope that, as the budget process progresses, American Indian tribes will receive the attention and funding they need.

I look forward to reviewing the testimony of the tribal leaders in attendance today and regret I can not be there to hear your concerns in person.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF MATT STRONGHEART-LOPEZ, MEMBER, STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL, ON BEHALF OF RON HIS HORSE IS THUNDER, CHAIRMAN, STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL

Good morning, Senator Dorgan. I bear greetings from the Dakota and Lakota people of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. My name is Matt Strongheart-Lopez. I am an At-Large Representative member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council, and serve as Vice-Chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council's Health, Education, and Welfare Committee.

I am honored to deliver testimony to this committee on behalf of Chairman Ron His Horse Is Thunder. Chairman His Horse Is Thunder is unable to be here today due to the passing of one of our colleagues, James Jamerson, Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council Representative from the Running Antelope District. Mr. Jamerson passed away last week, and his funeral services are today.

On behalf of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to share with this committee, the distressing concerns of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe regarding the President's Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Request for Indian Programs.

As is the case with many other American Indian nations, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is challenged with many formidable difficulties and obstacles in achieving a sound quality of life for its 9,000 resident members. In addition to the challenges posed by geographic isolation, the communities and people of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, though prideful of our glorious Dakota/Lakota heritage and historical contributions to American society, remain as some of the poorest and most overlooked in this country.

Coincidently, most of the challenges we are faced with overcoming today are issue areas associated with the terms and obligations of the Federal Government which

are outlined in our 1868 treaties with the United States of America. These treaty issue-challenges include health care and education disparities, and inadequate housing and infrastructure.

Just as great leaders from Standing Rock, such as Sitting Bull, Gall, and Two Bears, envisioned a prosperous Dakota/Lakota Nation 7 generations from their time, we, in this generation, are working toward a prosperous Standing Rock 7 generations from today. In order to accomplish our cultural and spiritual obligations to our Dakota and Lakota descendants, we will continue to rely on the treaty promises made to our forefathers seven generations ago. Promises made in exchange for peace, our livelihood, and most of our best lands.

Although we are not surprised by the fact that the needs of Indian country and Standing Rock are not prioritized in the President's Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Request, we are, however, very discontented that funding for critical Federal Indian programs is slated for reduction. While we appreciate the slight increase proposed for the Indian Health Services budget, the proposed cuts to other important programs in Indian country are hugely troublesome, especially since all of our communities at Standing Rock continue to grow at a very rapid rate. Current levels of funding for Federal Indian programs at Standing Rock are woefully inadequate and cover only about 40-percent, at the most, of our actual needs. In light of forecast population growth at Standing Rock, future reduced or stagnant funding of critical Indian programs will translate into dire conditions and additional challenges.

The list of needs and challenges at Standing Rock is long. One very important item proposed for elimination in the President's 2007 Budget is the Johnson O'Malley Grant Program. The elimination of this crucial program will further inhibit the academic successes of over one-half of all Standing Rock's elementary, middle, and secondary students. Of the 9 school systems on the Standing Rock reservation, 6 are public schools and 3 are BIA-funded schools. Standing Rock children who attend those three BIA-funded schools will inevitably absorb the proposed $1.3 million cut to BIA Office of Indian Education Programs funding.

Additionally, the planned realignment of BIA Office of Indian Education Programs Education Line Officers is quite problematic. The proposal would split Standing Rock and cause the Bureau school administrators on the South Dakota portion of Standing Rock to report to an Education Line Office in Pierre, while administrators on the North Dakota side would report to an office in Minot, thus removing essential services and technical assistance from the local agency level at Fort Yates to distances far removed from Standing Rock.

As well, the proposed $65 million reduction in overall BIA funding will likely translate into additional strains on BIA Law Enforcement Services at Standing Rock. As it is, budget constraints allow for only 7 BIA Law Enforcement officers to patrol all 8 districts, 1,300-plus miles of roads, and nearly 850,000 acres of tribal/trust lands of the Standing Rock Reservation.

Since 1997, the Dakota and Lakota people of Standing Rock have endured tragic and painful losses of its young people to suicide. Sadly, we have the task of interring another young person tomorrow. Additional funding for suicide prevention, intervention, and post-intervention care and services will not immediately and completely abate future tragedies, but it will assist immensely. Certainly, stagnant funding for I.H.S. Mental Health Services or reductions in funding for BIA Social Services will not help.

Again, the current list of needs and challenges at Standing Rock is long. With the anticipated doubling of our population in several years to come, that list will only become longer if the current rates of funding for Federal Indian programs is applied to future allocations. The President and Congress must remember that funding for Indian programs is not welfare, but payments for large amounts of our territory.

Finally, on a related note, as pro posed budgets for Federal Indian programs continues to shrink in light of rising needs and population growth all across Indian country, now is not the time to propose restrictions on Indian gaming. Although the benefits and revenues of Indian gaming enterprises at Standing Rock are meager in comparison to that of other tribes, such benefits and revenue assist greatly in supplementing critical family and child programs for the Dakota and Lakota people of Standing Rock.

In closing, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe trusts that members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will continue to educate and enlighten your Senate colleagues on the importance of adequate funding for Federal Indian programs. As well, we will continue to hope that the White House will someday acknowledge and prioritize the needs and challenges in Indian country.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share a glimpse of the potential impact of the President's Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Request on the services and programs for the people of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Testimony for the Senate Indian Affairs Committee field hearing at the United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck, ND February 23, 2006

Good Morning Senator Dorgan, members of the US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Committee, and other distinguished guests. I am Ken W. Davis, Chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and I am a member of the National Tribal Budget Advisory Council. I want to speak to you today about the impact the proposed budget of FY2007 will have on our reservation including the cuts in funding for the BIA and IHS. Before I get into local issues, I want to highlight significant reductions in the President's FY2007 budget request for BIA. His budget proposes to eliminate funding for Johnson O'Malley, Community Fire Protection, and again, United Tribes. In addition, the request reduces Noxious Weeds, Tribal Management (Natural Resources – Bison), Tribal Courts Initiatives, Roads Maintenance, school construction and repairs. All the reductions total $148,081,000.

Presently the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians contracts 22 programs from the BIA through P.L. 93-638. As an example, two of the most essential contracts to my tribe's welfare are the Johnson O'Malley program and the Turtle Mountain Tribal Court System.

The Johnson O'Malley program now serves between 800 to 1200 students per year on a continual basis. Funding for this program has dropped from $80,000 in FY1999 to the proposed FY2007 amount of **zero**. FY2006 was originally cut to

$35,888, but was fortunately restored to $75,837 halfway into the year. We ask that this harmful loss of funding be corrected and an adequate funding level be restored.

The formulation for the Turtle Mountain Tribal Court Systems was started with Indian Self Determination Grant funds and has now shifted into the TPA system. This very essential program is critical in maintaining law and order on the reservation. Every year this program suffers a cut in funding, greatly hindering its ability to function adequately. Within the total Tribal Court budget is also a program to assist the Tribe's Probation and Parole Department, functioning at an estimated annual budget of $39,000.

Our local BIA Agency is struggling with its current funding level and the cuts in the proposed FY2007 budge will make it that much more difficult to provide the services needed to maintain a viable reservation.

Nowhere are the funding cutbacks so harmful as they are in social services in the un-met need Welfare Assistance Grant Funds. 26% of ND's total caseloads are in Rolette County and 98% of those caseloads are enrolled members of our tribe. In FY 2005, the Tribe and BIA provided services to an average of 1,289 people on a monthly basis. About $3,123,000 in welfare assistance payments was spent in meeting essential needs. With a projected $11 million reduction in the proposed BIA budget, these essential needs of the most vulnerable of our tribal members will go unmet. The President proposes eliminating Miscellaneous

Assistance and Tribal Work Expenses, both vital programs to our Tribe. Miscellaneous provides for burial and emergency (fire/disaster). The President's justification is there are county and state programs available to replace these services. I've attached a copy of letters from the Rolette County Commissioners and the Director of the Rolette County Social Services that says the county and the state have their own budget shortfalls.

Education is the key to our people's future, just as it is for everyone. This is one area where the direct benefit can be seen. Nearly 100% of Turtle Mountain Chippewa who have received formal educations are employed and no longer part of the 65% generational unemployment that plagues our community. The costs of higher education, however, have quadrupled since the early nineties. Scholarship dollars per student available through the BIA has been diminishing and will be reduced even more under the current proposed budget. There is an average of 1,500 Turtle Mountain Chippewa in college each academic year; our scholarship program can only fund 650 of them, and then only at a tenth of what they need to meet their basic necessities while in school. Our students are forced to borrow in excess of $22,000 for a four-year degree, which is **above** the national average. Many can't afford this and drop out. The President again is looking for a reduction in the national scholarship budget for the FY2006 enacted. This program has been successful for over 30 years, yet the program has continuously been reduced from its highest amount of $33 million to $29.5

million requested for FY2007, while college costs have tripled over this same time frame.

The Job Placement and Training program currently receives $400,144. In FY1983, it was funded for $732,100. This is a reduction of $331,956 even before the decreased value of the dollar is figured. The cost of an education is continually on the rise, but Job Placement and Training budget has continuously decreased over the years. We have not had the funds for Job Placement relocation since FY1994.

In the health care area, we anticipate a shortfall of $2.8 million in FY2006 at our local IHS Quentin Burdick Health Care programs. This only considers Priority I, life and death needs. We expect in FY2006 a $200,000 shortfall in the clinic and hospital's maintenance fund gets due to increased fuel costs. We expect these shortfalls to continue in FY2007. Due to budget constraints, we are being forced to purchase lower cost generic drugs. We spend over $5 million annually on drugs. We continue to have shortages of dentists, pharmacists, physicians, radiologists and CRNAs, creating a burden on our third party budgets when we have to contract for these services.

Our tribe does not currently have a nursing home facility to serve its elder community. As part of our Economic Development Initiatives, we are in the

process of established a long-term care project for the Turtle Mountain area, but funding cuts jeopardize our ability to finance this needed resource.

According to surveys that were done in February and March of 2005, the students and parents of our tribe called for a community youth center. The surveys identified educational, recreational, and cultural activities as a priority for the students on the reservation. With the meth problem on the rise in the country and on our reservation and a high youth suicide risks, healthy alternatives for our young people are needed to keep them away from the path of drugs and alcohol. As another part of our Economic Development Initiatives, w have begun planning for a facility that will address these needs, but again, budget cutbacks put this at risk.

Law enforcement has also been cut to the bone, limiting our ability to combat the meth and other problems to nip them in the bud before they get out of control as they have on other reservations and in other parts of the country. We have seen our BIA Law Enforcement budget reduced from $1,838,396 in FY2002 down to FY2006's budget of just $1,535,332, a reduction of 17%. Of even more concern is the number of law enforcement personnel has dropped over that same period from 31 down to 23, a reduction of 26%. The additional requirements needed to fight meth and participate in homeland security should bring more law enforcement funding and personnel, not substantially less.

The Road Maintenance Program is responsible for maintaining 163.7 miles of roads on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation. The Road Maintenance Budget continues to be decreased while personnel and program operational costs steadily increase each year. From FY 2003's budget of $350,683, the budget has been reduced in FY 2006 to $312,795. With personnel costs anticipated at $302,000, just $10,795 is available for equipment operation and repairs of equipment that is old and in need of replacement. In FY 2006, a shortfall of $150,000 is anticipated for the operation and repair of old and out dated equipment and maintenance materials and supplies. Combined with the $45,000 needed for seasonal hires, the total Road Maintenance unmet need for FY 2007 is projected to be $195,000.

Another example is our Home Improvement Program. Of the 350 or so applications we receive each year, we are only able to serve 2 to 4 of them because of funding shortages. What funds the tribe does receive should be given with flexibility on how they should be spent. Tribes need to have the authority to use the Category A to meet emergency needs.

Senator Dorgan and honorable members of the Committee, our community was recently selected by the Northwest Area Foundation for funding our "Pathways to Prosperity" community Ventures Project to lift our people out of the shackles of poverty. A large number of people, many of them ordinary citizens who received no compensation, worked on the plan for over a year. Our tribe worked hard to

be selected and we were rewarded for that work. With the proposed funding cuts we are now seeing in the proposed budget, it seems like for every difficult step we take forward, we are now being forced back three steps.

We are about to turn the corner, but these budget cuts are making our hard journey that much more challenging. We have enough challenges, Senator; we now challenge you to help us by passing a sufficient and fair budget.

Thank you.

I'll be happy to answer any of your questions.

BIA - FY 2007 Total Program Changes

Program	Increase	Decrease	Purpose
Contract Support [TPA]	19,000		Fund 100% of Indirect, balance to begin Direct
Indian Self Determination Fund [TPA]		-971	Sufficient carryover to fund this FY
Tribal Gov't Central Program Oversight	2,050		Div.of Self-Determination Svcs.; Tribal judgment distribution research
Tribal Gov't Regional Program Oversight	1,800		Support Regional Self-Determination awarding officials
Subtotal, Tribal Government:	22,850	-971	
Welfare Assistance [TPA]		-11,008	06 add-on not continued; eliminate Misc.Asst. and TWEP, reduce Gen.Asst.
Indian Child Welfare Act [TPA]		-690	06 add-on not continued
Subtotal, Human Services:	0	-11,698	
Irrigation Operations & Maintenance		-690	06 add-on not continued for NIIP, Klamath/Chiloquin; Incr. for Modoc Pt.& oth.pymts
Rights Protection Implementation		-3,750	06 add-ons not cont'd Wash.Timber/Fish/Wildlife & Chippewa/Ottawa Treaty fisheries
Tribal Management/Development Program		-5,860	Eliminate Bison prog & '06 add-ons not continued; Increase Alaska Subsistence
Endangered Species		-494	Reduced due to higher priorities, progs. to bear responsibility for compliance
Noxious Weed Eradication		-1,000	Reduced due to higher priorities
Water Mgmt., Planning & PreDevelopment		-1,879	06 add-ons not continued
Fish, Wildlife & Parks Projects		-208	06 add-on not continued for Fish Hatcheries
Minerals & Mining Projects	1,400		Energy resource development
Minerals & Mining Oversight	600		Oversight of energy grants & TERAs
Subtotal, Trust-Natural Resources Management:	2,000	-13,849	
Probate Backlog	3,000		Probate contract to clear backlog
Real Estate Services Projects	6,534		Cadastral Surveys; UTTC/CIT Surveyor Training Program
Alaska Native Programs-Other		-394	06 add-on not continued for Alaska Legal Services
Subtotal, Trust-Real Estate Services:	9,534	-394	
Early Childhood Development		-3,253	06 add not continued
Administrative Cost Grants		-499	Admin. Cost Grant Fund not necessary-no new grant schools
Juvenile Detention Education	630		Establish JD Ed program
Johnson-O'Malley Assistance Grants [TPA]		-16,371	Eliminate program, use other Federal resources
Tribal Colleges & Universities		-824	Reduce Endowment Grants program
Education Program Management	2,500		Restructure of Education management
Subtotal, Education:	3,130	-20,941	
Law Enforcement-Criminal Invest./Police Svcs	1,786		Addtl tribal police officers to high crime areas
Law Enforcement-Detention/Corrections	2,714		Tribal staffing at 2 new facilities
Law Enforcement-Tribal Justice Support	1,480		Div.of Tribal Justice Support-new staff & expenses; annual court reviews
Tribal Courts IIM Initiative [TPA]		-5,380	Initiative not successful, funds realigned
Fire Protection [TPA]		-3,144	06 restoral; Eliminate program, use other resources
Subtotal, Public Safety and Justice:	5,980	-6,474	
Road Maintenance [TPA]		-2,002	Reduction to fund highest priorities
Community Development		-10,778	06 adds not continued - United Tribes / Comm pmt
Community Development Central Oversight		-465	Econ.Develop.Commission-blue ribbon panel, work has sufficient funding
Subtotal, Community and Economic Development:	0	-13,243	
Assistant Secretary Support	500		Federal Acknowledgment-add team to accelerate acknowledgment process
Rentals [GSA/Direct]	4,243		Increased direct lease costs
Subtotal, Executive Direction and Administrative Services:	4,743	0	
Replacement School Construction		-20,099	Funds fewer schools
Facilities Improvement & Repair		-21,542	Funds fewer projects
Subtotal, Education Construction:	0	-50,041	
Indian Irrigation Rehabilitation		-7,389	06 add-on not continued
Subtotal, Resources Management Construction:	0	-7,389	
White Earth		-13	Required payment is less
Hoopa Yurok		-2	Required payment is less
Quinault		-9,111	Settlement complete
Pyramid Lake		-2	Required payment is less
Colorado Ute		-9,111	Settlement complete
Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw	510		Restore ATBs and completes settlement
Zuni		-5,444	Settlement complete
Rocky Boys O&M Trust Fund	7,500		New Settlement
Nez Perce/Snake River	14,774		New Settlement
Subtotal, Land & Water Settlements/Miscellaneous Payments:	22,784	-23,081	
	71,021	-146,081	
	77,660		Note: Fixed Costs & Related Changes: +24,641; Net: -52,419

(From Tony Davis)

In the Great Plains Region, the reservations that are served by this area are in isolated areas: and are in great distance from major cities therefore the cost of living is increased and the need for increased funding from the US Government is always needed because of lack of job opportunities that exist on reservations.

As Tribes become more sophisticated they begin contracting more programs to P.L. 93-638 as amended which gives the tribes more opportunities to manage their own lives. When a Tribe contracts a program along with that program comes a budget to operate the functions. Since the time that tribes were given the opportunity to contact these budgets have been steadily decreased. Presently the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians contracts 22 programs from the BIA. To touch on a few that are essential to the Tribes welfare will be presented.

Johnson O'Malley – this program has now serves on a continuous basis between 800 to 1200 students per year.

FY 1999 – $80,000
FY 2000 – $79,520
FY 2001 - $79,520
FY 2002 - $79,345
FY 2003 - $79,345
FY 2004 - $79,345
FY 2005 - $79,345
FY 2006 - $75,837 - Cut to $35,888 but was restored approx. 6 months later
FY 2007 - $0.00 - 100% proposed cut

Turtle Mountain Tribal Court Systems - this formulation was started with Indian Self Determination Grant funds and shifted into the now TPA system. This is a very essential program in maintaining law and order on the reservation. But every year this program suffers a cut in funding which greatly hinders its ability to function adequately. With the total Tribal Court budget is also a program to assist the Tribe's Probation and Parole Department which functions at an estimated annual budget of $39,000.

Appropriations – FY 1999 - $325,768
FY 2000 - $339,078
FY 2001 - $350,866
FY 2002 - $361,596
FY 2003 - $366,239
FY 2004 - $366,239
FY 2005 - $366,239
FY 2006 - $380,815

Note: Most increases are due to 638 pay adjustment

(From the BIA)

TURTLE MOUNTAIN ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The Turtle Mountain Roads Maintenance Program is in critical need of adequate funding to ensure safe travel for the general public and members of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. Without question, Turtle Mountain Reservation is located in one of the most extreme weather locations throughout the entire Bureau system. Specifically, the Road Maintenance Program is charged with the responsibility of maintaining 163.7 miles of roads located on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation and its adjacent lands. The diversity of our climate requires routine road maintenance which includes: grading, graveling, snow-plowing, asphalt patching, asphalt crack sealing, repair and replacement of directional signing, mowing ditches and back slopes, reestablishing roadway shoulders and back slopes, brushing and vegetation control of ditches, back slopes and intersections, controlling precipitation drainage and erosion control and maintenance of an extensive recreational bike and pedestrian trails and pathways.

The Road Maintenance Budget continues to decrease each year affecting the operational responsibility of Road Maintenance Program on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation. Presently, the Road Maintenance Personnel consist of four permanent full time employees and two furlough employees. Three additional seasonal employees are needed to support the special maintenance projects identified throughout the summer months. A total of $45,000 is needed to hire seasonal employees.

The Road Maintenance Budget continues to decline while personnel cost steadily increases each year and program operational cost continues to decrease. For example, in FY 2006, the annual Roads Maintenance Budget has decline to $312,795 with personnel cost anticipated at $302,000, which leaves $10,795 for equipment operation and repairs. In FY 2006, an anticipated shortfall of $150,000 is needed for the operation and repair of old and out dated equipment and maintenance materials and supplies.

As mentioned, the overall Road Maintenance Equipment is old and in total need of replacement. Equipment such as motor graders, trucks and loaders are constantly being repaired and with the limitations of funding, road maintenance responsibilities become most difficult. Our Road Maintenance Program has considered surplus equipment however; the availability of adequate equipment is very limited.

Presently, the Turtle Mountain Road Maintenance program is in dire need of immediate replacement of a motor grader and truck that is use totally for grading and snow removal. The total need for equipment replacement is **$400,000** which is the very minimum considering the old and out dated equipment which needs to be replaced.

Total unmet need for FY 2007 is $45,000 (Seasonal Hire) and $150,000 (equipment repair, materials and supplies) totaling **$195,000.**

GREAT PLAINS REGION
TURTLE MOUNTAIN AGENCY
JOB PLACEMENT AND TRAINING

FY-2007 BUDGET FORMULATION STATEMENT

- Job Placement and Training program currently operates on a budget of **$400,144** - FY-0607.
- Job Placement and Training program received $732,100 during FY-83 compared to our current funding level of $400,144 or a decrease of $331,956. The cost of an education is continually on the rise, but our budget has continuously decreased over the years. Due to reduced budgets, we have not had the funds for Job Placement (relocation) since FY-94.
- The total tribal enrollment is 29,673 with an estimated 67% unemployment.
- The local Turtle Mountain Community College currently has a total enrollment of 244 in Career & Technical Education programs.
- **Job Training** would need **$2,074,000** to fund 244 individuals at 100% of their training needs at an average cost of $8,500 just at the local community college; this does not include vocational trainees at other colleges.
- Job Placement and Training funds at approximately 44% of their training needs. Additional funding to provide services at 100% would increase the success rate of our clients, as they would not have to seek additional resources to meet their training needs.
- In addition to Job Training, the program is not funded to provide **Job Placement** (Relocation) services to our clients. Additional funds of **$750,000** could fund approximately 500 clients at $1,500 per placement. These individuals would have the financial resources for transportation, childcare, or other needs until they receive that first paycheck.

- Job Placement and Training provides services to individuals that meet Pell Grant eligibility and funds are not sufficient to assist other individuals that also have an unmet need.
- Job Placement and Training would also need approximately **$131,000** for an additional 3 FTE to assist with the increased workload of assisting clients with their training or placement needs. We are currently understaffed with only 2 FTE. The two individuals are responsible for processing 450 applications and monitoring approximately 150 active applicants throughout the fiscal year. In addition, these individuals are responsible for Human Services for 53 employees, Collections, Acting Superintendent and Labor Force functions for the Turtle Mountain Agency.
- Job Placement and Training would need **$250,000** for travel/training, supplies and other administrative costs for a total of 5 FTE.
- Based on the above justification, Job Placement and Training program needs a **total** of **$3,605,144** to meet the Job Placement and Training needs of the unemployed members of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

TURTLE MOUNTAIN BAND OF CHIPPEWA
BRANCH OF HUMAN SERVICES - SOCIAL SERVICES

Un-met Need Welfare Assistance Grant Funds - FY 2006

- In comparison to the increasing reservation joblessness rate over the past several years, the number of American Indian people served by the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and Bureau of Indian Affairs has risen. The cost associated in providing welfare assistance services has also escalated (See chart).

- In comparison of the counties (as of January of 2006) in the State of North Dakota, Rolette County constitutes about **26% of the states total caseload**. About **97.9% of Rolette's caseload is American Indian.** A total sum of about **$24,164,364** was spent by the State during the last biennium in TANF's benefits.

- During FY 2004 and FY 2005, an approximate sum of **$16,246,028** was spent by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in meeting the essential needs for the four Indian Tribes in North

Dakota. In partnership with the State, about **1,459 households in Rolette County** were provided services of which **none of these were a duplication of services**.

- In addition to welfare assistance services provided to American Indians by Rolette County; in FY 2005, the Tribe and Bureau provided services to an average of **1,289 people on a monthly basis**. About **$3,123,000 in welfare assistance payments was spent in meeting the essential needs** of an improvised population (See Chart).

- Based upon the FY 2006 current allocation and anticipated need of welfare assistance grant funds; it is projected that a shortfall of funds will be felt throughout the nation. It is crucial that the needs of this group of individuals be addressed and the funds allocated to meet the essential needs of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa be met.

Turtle Mountain Case Load

894 52 120 53 = 1044

AVERAGE CASE LOAD

2002 REGION	GENERAL ASST	CHILD WELFARE	MISC ASST	SERVICE ONLY	TOTAL
GREAT PLAINS	5901	606	139	1221	7867
SOUTHERN PLAINS	368	41	16	465	890
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	1255	127	1	89	1472
ALASKA	570	4	23	0	597
MIDWEST	360	21	0	518	899
EASTERN OK	139	315	37	1081	1572
WESTERN	2328	367	67	325	3087
PACIFIC	76	0	13	2545	2634
SOUTHWEST	490	233	57	735	1515
NAVAJO	9109	461	49	1211	10830
NORTHWEST	1131	17	1	16	1165
EASTERN	481	315	37	1081	1914

2003 REGION	GENERAL ASST	CHILD WELFARE	MISC ASST	SERVICE ONLY	TOTAL
GREAT PLAINS	7243	492	133	1323	9191
SOUTHERN PLAINS	395	14	15	454	878
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	1060	134	0	1001	2195
ALASKA	1525	0	37	0	1562
MIDWEST	556	20	0	141	717
EASTERN OK	290	0	36	30	356
WESTERN	5623	1335	177	0	7135
PACIFIC	34	0	10	3000	3044
SOUTHWEST	481	252	71	895	1699
NAVAJO	9370	1236	118	3166	13890
NORTHWEST	1558	42	5	0	1605
EASTERN	615	254	38	1250	2157

2003 1217

AVERAGE EXPENDITURES

REGION	GEN ASST	CHILD WELFARE	MISC ASST	TOTAL
GREAT PLAINS	$ 9,707,009.00	$ 4,798,607.00	$ 1,231,406.00	$ 15,737,022.00
SOUTHERN PLAINS	$ 344,427.00	$ 11,163.00	$ 46,105.00	$ 401,695.00
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	$ 2,198,140.00	$ 890,701.00	$ 1,530.00	$ 3,090,371.00
ALASKA	$ 1,508,680.00	$ 55,357.00	$ 245,881.00	$ 1,809,918.00
MIDWEST	$ 792,991.00	$ 223,992.00	$ -	$ 1,016,983.00
EASTERN OK	$ 211,100.00	$ -	$ 425,623.00	$ 636,723.00
WESTERN	$ 2,989,597.00	$ 8,972,597.00	$ 828,812.00	$ 12,791,006.00
PACIFIC	$ 391,846.00	$ -	$ 94,408.00	$ 486,254.00
SOUTHWEST	$ 613,784.00	$ 1,032,738.00	$ 58,416.00	$ 1,704,938.00
NAVAJO	$ 19,483,380.00	$ 7,138,679.00	$ 420,427.00	$ 27,042,486.00
NORTHWEST	$ 3,572,472.00	$ 114,155.00	$ 3,889.00	$ 3,690,516.00
EASTERN	$ 517,002.00	$ 1,061,448.00	$ 254,727.00	$ 1,833,177.00

REGION	GEN ASST	CHILD WELFARE	MISC ASST	TOTAL
GREAT PLAINS	$ 12,455,800.00	$ 4,601,192.00	$ 1,307,985.00	$ 18,364,977.00
SOUTHERN PLAINS	$ 438,222.00	$ 9,522.00	$ 4,230.00	$ 451,974.00
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	$ 1,853,039.00	$ 663,609.00	$ -	$ 2,516,648.00
ALASKA	$ 1,528,105.00	$ -	$ 234,103.00	$ 1,762,208.00
MIDWEST	$ 727,121.00	$ 176,225.00	$ -	$ 903,346.00
EASTERN OK	$ 190,400.00	$ -	$ 380,700.00	$ 571,100.00
WESTERN	$ 4,882,230.00	$ 6,753,397.00	$ 2,795,630.00	$ 14,431,257.00
PACIFIC	$ 197,374.00	$ -	$ 92,822.00	$ 290,196.00
SOUTHWEST	$ 820,121.00	$ 1,236,468.00	$ 98,519.00	$ 2,155,108.00
NAVAJO	$ 23,259,388.00	$ 6,572,680.00	$ 696,136.00	$ 30,528,204.00
NORTHWEST	$ 3,364,472.00	$ 60,701.00	$ 34,537.00	$ 3,459,710.00
EASTERN	$ 688,196.00	$ 739,738.00	$ 222,405.00	$ 1,650,339.00

AVERAGE CASE LOAD

2004 REGION	GENERAL ASST	CHILD WELFARE	MISC ASST	SERVICE ONLY	TOTAL
GREAT PLAINS	7954	507	185	1454	10100
SOUTHERN PLAINS	389	5	8	391	793
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	1026	85	0	603	1714
ALASKA	1501	0	42	0	1543
MIDWEST	510	19	0	3047	3576
EASTERN OK	238	0	70	127	435
WESTERN	5724	1025	347	2792	9888
PACIFIC	42	0	76	3000	3118
SOUTHWEST	436	256	51	951	1694
NAVAJO	8494	587	47	6306	15434
NORTHWEST	1144	17	4	0	1165
EASTERN	238	0	70	127	435

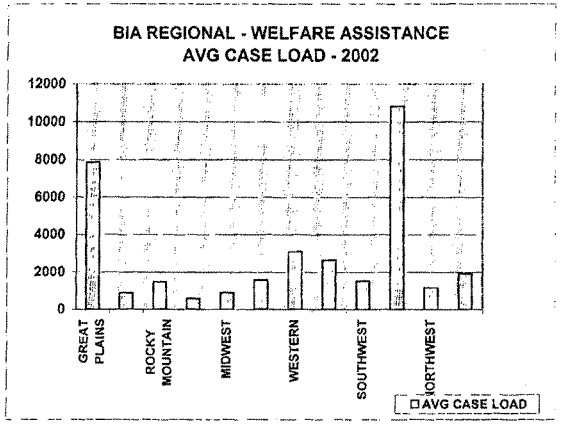
Total avg monthly case load 1265

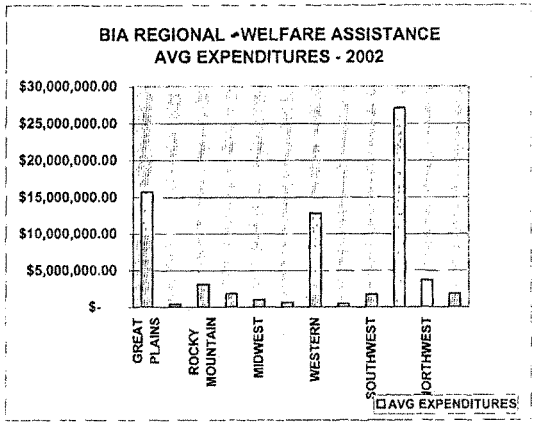
2005 1289

AVERAGE EXPENDITURES

	GEN ASST	CHILD WELFARE	MISC ASST	
GREAT PLAINS	$ 13,502,690.00	$ 4,520,329.00	$ 1,513,583.00	$ 19,536,602.00
SOUTHERN PLAINS	$ 466,360.00	$ 3,967.00	$ 32,294.00	$ 502,621.00
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	$ 1,461,247.00	$ 489,865.00	$ 237.00	$ 1,951,349.00
ALASKA	$ 1,194,891.00	$ -	$ 242,449.00	$ 1,437,340.00
MIDWEST	$ 493,325.00	$ 166,383.00	$ -	$ 659,708.00
EASTERN OK	$ 213,200.00	$ -	$ 505,800.00	$ 719,000.00
WESTERN	$ 5,231,419.00	$ 5,458,569.00	$ 1,039,330.00	$ 11,729,318.00
PACIFIC	$ 162,778.00	$ -	$ 911,722.00	$ 1,074,500.00
SOUTHWEST	$ 686,900.00	$ 1,287,719.00	$ 157,169.00	$ 2,131,788.00
NAVAJO	$ 23,124,160.00	$ 7,298,208.00	$ 1,154,144.00	$ 31,576,512.00
NORTHWEST	$ 3,360,700.00	$ 72,642.00	$ 29,993.00	$ 3,463,335.00
EASTERN	$ 671,276.00	$ 1,152,571.00	$ 564,743.00	$ 2,388,590.00

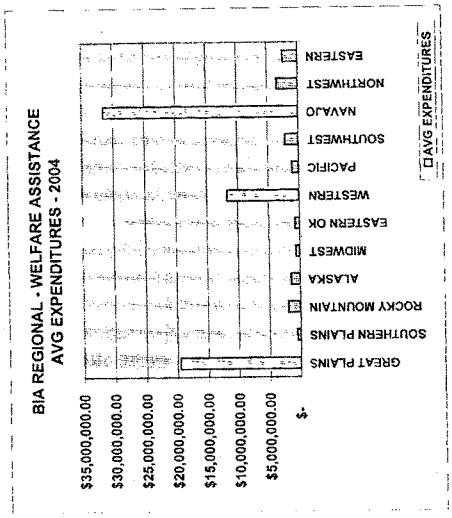
2002	03	04	05
1044	1217	1265	1289

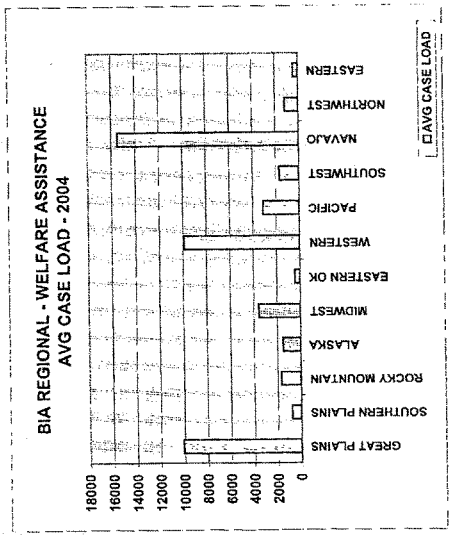

BIA REGIONAL - WELFARE ASSISTANCE
AVG CASE LOAD - 2002
12000
10000
8000
6000
4000
2000
0
GREAT PLAINS
ROCKY MOUNTAIN
MIDWEST
WESTERN
SOUTHWEST
NORTHWEST
AVG CASE LOAD

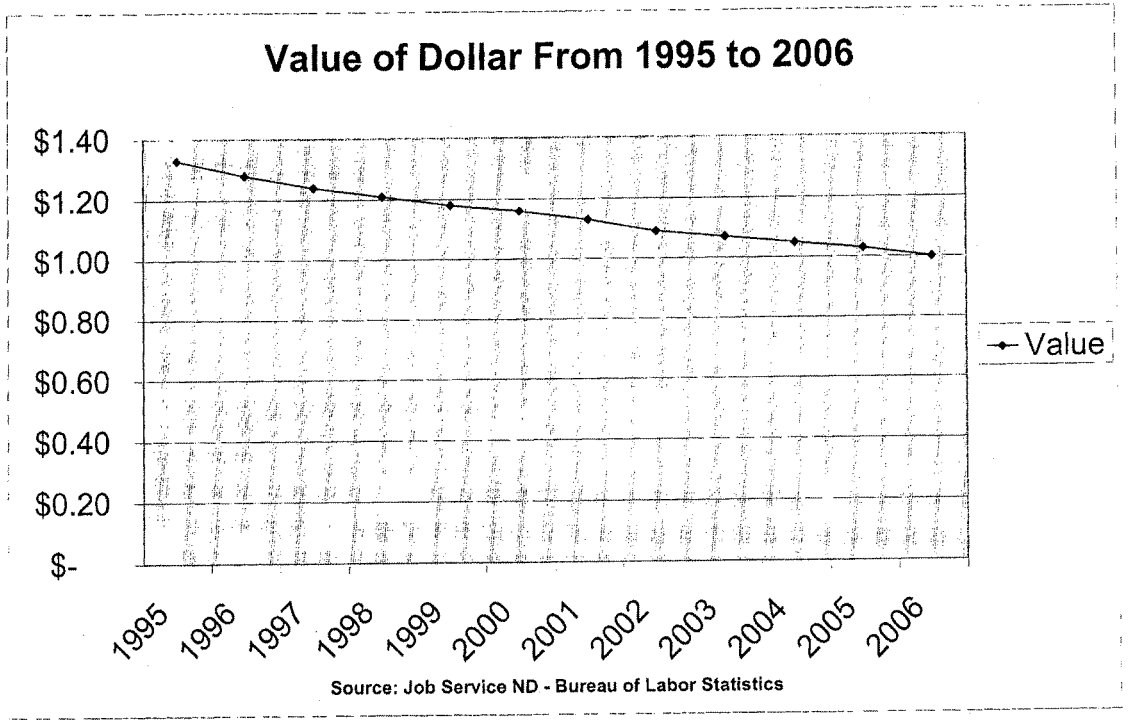

BIA REGIONAL - WELFARE ASSISTANCE
AVG EXPENDITURES - 2002
$30,000,000.00
$25,000,000.00
$20,000,000.00
$15,000,000.00
$10,000,000.00
$5,000,000.00
$-
GREAT PLAINS
ROCKY MOUNTAIN
MIDWEST
WESTERN
SOUTHWEST
NORTHWEST
AVG EXPENDITURES

BIA REGIONAL - WELFARE ASSISTANCE
AVG EXPENDITURES - 2003
$35,000,000.00
$30,000,000.00
$25,000,000.00
$20,000,000.00
$15,000,000.00
$10,000,000.00
$5,000,000.00
$-
GREAT PLAINS
SOUTHERN PLAINS
ROCKY MOUNTAIN
ALASKA
MIDWEST
EASTERN OK
WESTERN
PACIFIC
SOUTHWEST
NAVAJO
NORTHWEST
EASTERN
AVG EXPENDITURES

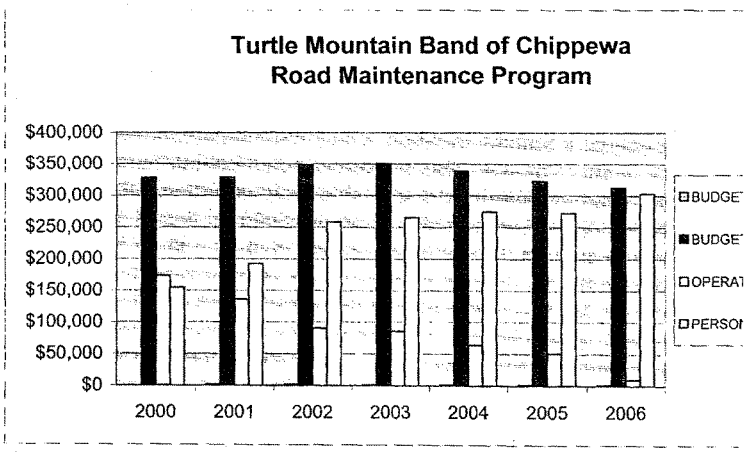
BIA REGIONAL - WELFARE ASSISTANCE
AVG CASE LOAD - 2003
15000
10000
5000
0
GREAT PLAINS
ROCKY MOUNTAI
MIDWEST
WESTERN
SOUTHW EST
NORTHW EST
AVG CASE LOAD


BIA REGIONAL - WELFARE ASSISTANCE
AVG EXPENDITURES - 2004
$35,000,000.00
$30,000,000.00
$25,000,000.00
$20,000,000.00
$15,000,000.00
$10,000,000.00
$5,000,000.00
$-
GREAT PLAINS
SOUTHERN PLAINS
ROCKY MOUNTAIN
ALASKA
MIDWEST
EASTERN OK
WESTERN
PACIFIC
SOUTHWEST
NAVAJO
NORTHWEST
EASTERN
AVG EXPENDITURES


BIA REGIONAL - WELFARE ASSISTANCE
AVG CASE LOAD - 2004
18000
16000
14000
12000
10000
8000
6000
4000
2000
0
GREAT PLAINS
SOUTHERN PLAINS
ROCKY MOUNTAIN
ALASKA
MIDWEST
EASTERN OK
WESTERN
PACIFIC
SOUTHWEST
NAVAJO
NORTHWEST
EASTERN
AVG CASE LOAD

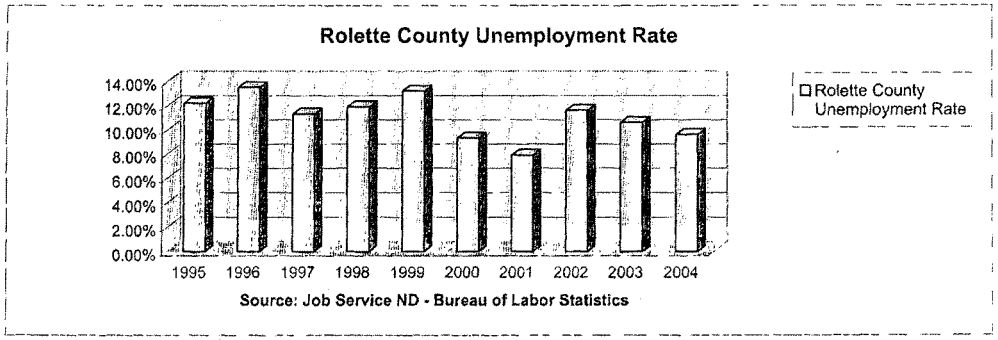

Value of Dollar From 1995 to 2006
$1.40
$1.20
$1.00
$0.80
$0.60
$0.40
$0.20
$-
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
Value
Source: Job Service ND - Bureau of Labor Statistics

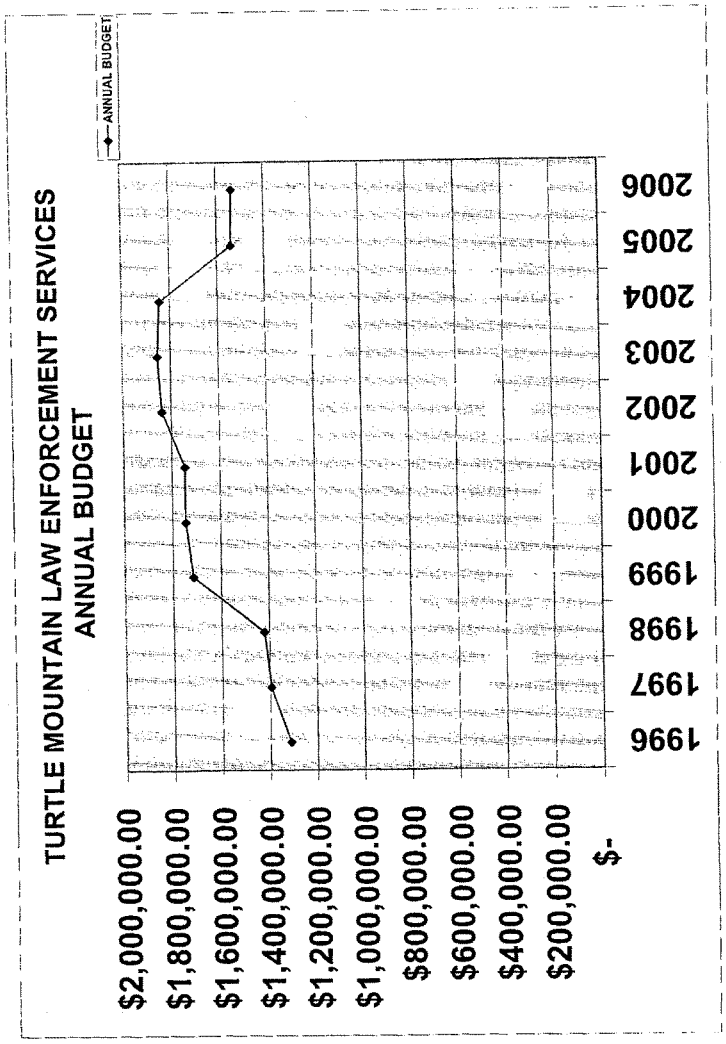
BUDGET YEAR	BUDGET ALLOCATION	OPERATION COST	PERSONNEL COST	
1995	$326,602.00			
1996	$320,681.00			
1997	$319,614.00			
1998	$316,980.00			
1999	$317,351.00			
2000	$327,779.00	$173,180.00	$ 154,599.00	
2001	$327,883.00	$135,957.00	$ 191,926.00	
2002	$348,742.00	$90,338.00	$ 258,404.00	
2003	$350,683.00	$85,628.00	$ 265,055.00	
2004	$338,876.00	$64,308.00	$ 274,568.00	
2005	$323,116.00	$50,548.00	$ 272,568.00	
2006	$312,795.00	$9,866.00	$ 302,929.00	

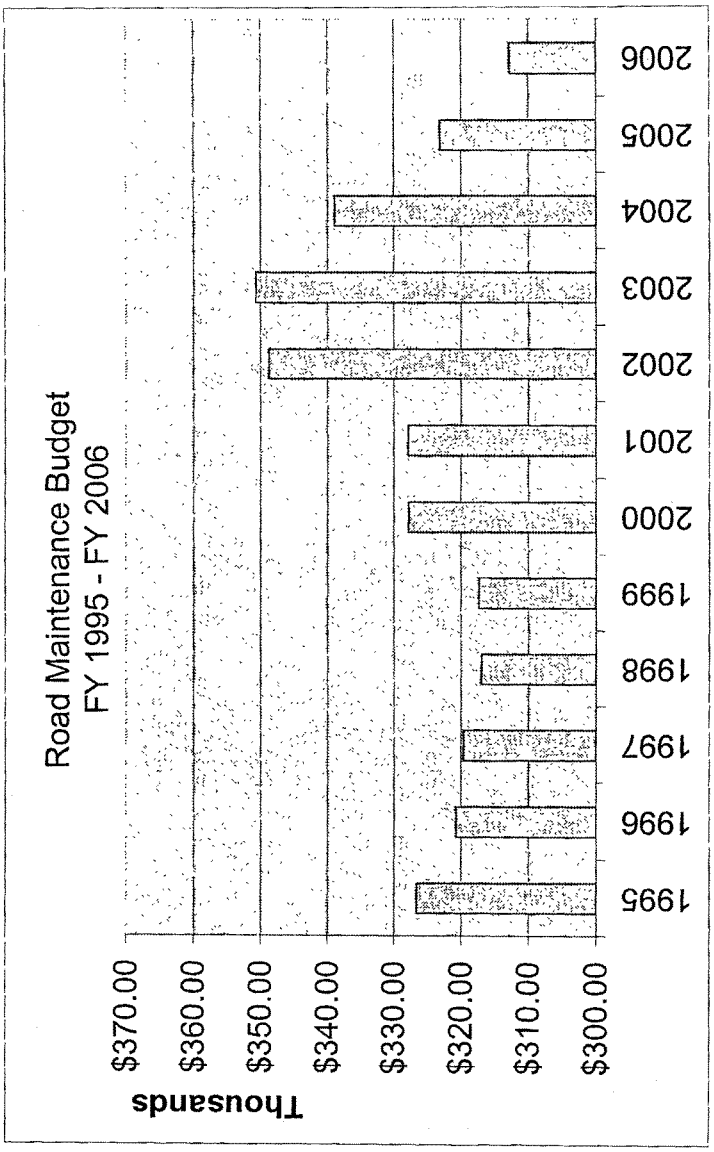


Labor Force

Month	Year	Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
13	1995	Rolette	5,857	5,144	713	12.20%
13	1996	Rolette	5,675	4,908	767	13.50%
13	1997	Rolette	5,598	4,967	631	11.30%
13	1998	Rolette	5,643	4,969	674	11.90%
13	1999	Rolette	5,832	5,061	771	13.20%
13	2000	Rolette	5,288	4,798	490	9.30%
13	2001	Rolette	5,672	5,223	449	7.90%
13	2002	Rolette	5,599	4,950	649	11.60%
13	2003	Rolette	5,430	4,853	577	10.60%
13	2004	Rolette	5,284	4,775	509	9.60%




TURTLE MOUNTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES
ANNUAL BUDGET
ANNUAL BUDGET
$2,000,000.00
$1,800,000.00
$1,600,000.00
$1,400,000.00
$1,200,000.00
$1,000,000.00
$800,000.00
$600,000.00
$400,000.00
$200,000.00
$-
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006


Road Maintenance Budget
FY 1995 - FY 2006
Thousands
$370.00
$360.00
$350.00
$340.00
$330.00
$320.00
$310.00
$300.00
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006

(From Emil LaRocque)

2-21-06

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribal Scholarship Program

1. The cost of higher education has quadrupled since the early nineties. The amount of scholarship dollars per student available through the BIA has and is diminishing.

2. It is important to note, education is not free to Indian people. Our students are forced to borrow in excess of $22,000 on a four-year degree, which is above the national average. In addition the amount of unmet need forced on our students each academic year has become a major part of their financial aid packages.

3. The following is an example of how our students are being packaged in regards to financial aid. We have 95 students who are attending the University Of North Dakota this present academic year. These 95 students had to borrow $270,390 in Stafford Loan, $215,360 in Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, and $38,400 in Perkins Loan. These students also had to provide $157,922 in contributions. In addition our students still had an unmet need of $130,328.

4. In college, all students are funded as though they were single students, spouse and children do not count on a college budget.

5. Nearly one-hundred percent of Turtle Mountain Chippewa who have earned formal educations are employed and no longer part of the 65% generational unemployment that plagues our community.

6. Single Moms are having the most difficult time. Some are driving 1000 miles a week, trying to improve their quality of life through higher education. 75% of our students are single parents.

7. Our students, need at least $1000 a month to meet their basic necessities, our Tribal Scholarship Program is able to give only $1000 per semester.

8. In spite of the huge amount of financial hurdles, our students are experiencing when working toward becoming formally educated, this tribe has hundreds of enrolled members who have earned formal educations. We have our own medical doctors, engineers, nurses, teachers, administrators, psychologist, act. Nearly 100% of these professionals have been served by the tribal scholarship program.

9. This tribe averages 60 to 70 college graduates annually. Academic year 2004-2005 we had funded 78 college seniors and 68 graduate students.

10. There is an average of 1500; Turtle Mountain Chippewa in college each academic year, our scholarship program can only fund 650 at a tenth of what they need to meet their basic necessities while in school. $5000 dollar unmet needs are the norm.

(From Sheila Trottier)

TURTLE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
JOB PLACEMENT TRAINING
FY 07' BUDGET REQUEST

Turtle Mountain Community College has a current enrollment of 182 students in Career and Technical Education. TMCC currently offers seven Career and Technical Education programs, funding for these programs come from State and Native American Vocational and Technical Education Program Perkins funding. With the Reauthorization of the Perkins Act and potential loss of Perkins funding, TMCC will have to eliminate these seven programs. Turtle Mountain Community College through labor market information and survey data has a need to expand the Career and Technical Education program offerings to high demand, high growth and high priority areas on the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation. The expansion would include providing Career and Technical Education in the following career pathways: Construction Technology, Allied Health Education- Nursing, Technology Education, Tribal Enterprise Management, Automotive Technology, Early Childhood Education, Energy Technology, Agriculture, Food and Nutrition, Fish and Wildlife Management, Welding Technology, Manufacturing Engineering Technology, and Medical Billing and Coding. The addition of these programs will provide education/training to an additional 535 students. TMCC has a need to increase the Job Placement and Training budget for direct services to students to $2,397,990.00 this equates to a $4,482 per student cost; this budget amount does not include the need for new facilities or equipment. TMCC has been fortunate to receive $26,000 from Job Placement and Training; this funding has allowed TMCC to offer part-time Career and Technical Education courses. However, this funding is not adequate to cover the minimum needs of the existing program or allow for expansion and the creation of new programs.

To understand the selection of the high demand/high growth, priority areas, it is important to have a general awareness of the local economy. The Turtle Mountain reservation, established by treaty, is located in north central North Dakota and comprises 72 square miles. With 86 people per square mile, Turtle Mountain is the most densely populated reservation in the country. (US Census) The county was one of only three in the state to experience growth between 1990 and 2000. The 9,983 tribal members represent 73% of the county population. The non-tribal population experienced a 19.3% decrease due to out migration and death (US Census, 2000).

The extreme poverty level, common to most reservations, is illustrated by available economic indicators. Data from the 2000 Census identified Rolette County, which includes the reservation, as the 31st poorest of all counties in the US with a per capita income is $4,705. The most recent Bureau of Indian Affairs Labor Force Report places unemployment at 65%.

The average educational attainment level for adults is placed at 10 years by the Bureau of Indian Affairs which is supported by school data which shows 40% of ninth graders will dropout before completing high school (2000 Census).

Major employers on the reservation are the Tribe and the federal government with the greatest number of jobs occurring in administration, education and health care. The private sector is largely limited to small mom and pop retail businesses. In more recent

years, the Tribe has started several businesses including manufacturing, casino operations, and data processing. The success of these ventures has been mixed with a major problem being the lack of skilled workers. When the Tribe has imported skilled workers, it has had to offer higher salaries which reduced profit and limited the impact on unemployment.

New business development is being actively pursued on the reservation. The community was recently granted recognition as one of 40 Renewal Communities nationwide. This designation means new businesses or relocated businesses are eligible for tax credits and tax incentives. Again the success of these efforts as well as the impact on the economic status of the community will be heavily dependent on the availability of a skilled workforce.

FY 07 - JOB PLACEMENT AND TRAINING PROPOSED BUDGET

Construction Technology	
3 FTE – Instructors Salary & fringe	$192,000.00
Student Materials & Supplies $500/students x 60 students	$30,000.00
Instructional Materials & Supplies	$4,000.00
Instructor Travel to Job Sites	$1,000.00
Allied Health Education – Nursing	
3 FTE – Salary & Fringe	$202,500.00
Student Materials & Supplies	$10,000.00
Instructional Materials & Supplies	$4,000.00
Instructor Travel to Job Sites	$1,000.00
Technology Education	
3 FTE – Instructor Salary & Fringe	$202,500.00
Student Materials & Supplies $500/student x 20 students	$10,000.00
Instructional Materials & Supplies	$4,000.00
Instructor travel to Training Sites	$1,000.00
Tribal Enterprise Management	
3 FTE – Instructor Salary & Fringe	$92,500.00
Student Materials & Supplies $200/student x 60 students	$12,000.00
Instructional Materials & Supplies	$2,000.00
Instructor travel to Training Sites	$1,000.00
Automotive Technology	
3 FTE – Instructors Salary & fringe	$204,500.00
Student Materials & Supplies $500/students x 20 students	$10,000.00
Instructional Materials & Supplies	$4,000.00
Instructor Travel to Job Sites	$1,000.00
Early Childhood Education	
2 FTE – Instructors Salary & fringe	$103,300.00
Student Materials & Supplies $500/students x 30 students	$15,000.00
Instructional Materials & Supplies	$3,000.00

Instructor Travel to Job Sites	$1,000.00
Energy Technology	
3 FTE – Instructors Salary & fringe	$202,000.00
Student Materials & Supplies $500/students x 30 students	$15,000.00
Instructional Materials & Supplies	$6,000.00
Instructor Travel to Job Sites	$15,000.00
Agriculture Food and Nutrition	
2 FTE – Instructors Salary & fringe	$192,000.00
Student Materials & Supplies $300/students x 30 students	$9,000.00
Instructional Materials & Supplies	$4,000.00
Instructor Travel to Job Sites	$1,000.00
Fish and Wildlife Management	
3 FTE – Instructors Salary & fringe	$202,000.00
Student Materials & Supplies $500/students x 60 students	$30,000.00
Instructional Materials & Supplies	$4,000.00
Instructor Travel to Job Sites	$1,000.00
Welding Technology	
2 FTE – Instructors Salary & fringe	$102,000.00
Student Materials & Supplies $500/students x 60 students	$30,000.00
Instructional Materials & Supplies	$4,000.00
Instructor Travel to Job Sites	$1,000.00
Manufacturing Engineering Technology	
3 FTE – Instructors Salary & fringe	$230,000.00
Student Materials & Supplies $500/students x 25 students	$12,500.00
Instructional Materials & Supplies	$4,000.00
Instructor Travel to Job Sites	$1,000.00
Medical Billing & Coding	
2 FTE – Instructors Salary & fringe	$92,000.00
Student Materials & Supplies $200/students x 60 students	$12,000.00
Instructional Materials & Supplies	$2,000.00
Instructor Travel to Job Sites	$1,000.00
Sub - Total	$2,283,800.00
Indirect	$114,190.00
Total Unmet Need	$2,397,990.00

(FROM BLAINE MALATERRE)

TURTLE MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY HEALTH REPRESENTATIVE

Throughout the years, the Turtle Mountain Community Health Representative Program has been operating every year at a level where the program has been struggling to survive and still serve the community in every way possible. With the large population of 13,500 enrolled members on the reservation, the Community Health Representative Program is greatly understaffed. An increase in the budget would allow the program to hire more individuals to serve the reservation population in all health areas.

The Community Health Representative Program has been and is a very much needed program on the Turtle Mountain Reservation. The program staff works with other health programs and the community in every area of health. The Community Health Representatives work closely with the Indian Health Service and other health programs in the county. The staff gets referrals from all agencies.

(FROM PATTY ALLERY)

February 21, 2006

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

My name is Patty A. Allery and I am the Coordinator/Counselor for the Tribal Youth Alcohol and other Drug Prevention Program. This program has been in operation for approximately 15 years and has operated with only one staff person for all of those years. I am told that is all the funding there is for the program is one staff person. That is ridiculous. The program is suppose to service all 12 to 19 year old persons living in and around the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation here in Belcourt, North Dakota. This is a highly impossible task with a yearly operating budget of $77,000 per year, because our schools alone here on the reservation have over 2000 students in that age group and that is not counting the surrounding schools. So you can see we are in need of more money to hire staff to do what this program is designed to do: Educate, Prevent, Intervene and Refer those kids that are using and abusing alcohol and other drugs to inpatient treatment when needed. My question is – why is money always at a short fall when it comes to our kids? They are our future and we need to preserve them with all that we have and more. Which brings up another need.

We are also in need of funds that can pay for those kids that are in need of placement in alcohol and other drug treatment facilities. We do not have a facility here on the reservation so we have to rely on and are at the mercy of those treatment centers that are located in North Dakota and South Dakota to meet our needs when they have space. Sometimes it takes up to 2 weeks for placement. These treatment facilities cost a considerable amount of money just for a 30 day treatment stay and we don't have the funds to cover those cost, so some kids are left without services. We are in dire need of an Adolescent Alcohol and other Drug Treatment Center here, as well as a Detention Center, so we don't have to send our kids away from their families, who also need to be involved in the treatment process, for long periods of time, but until that happens we need money to get them (the kids) the treatment they need in order for them to live a safe and healthy life style here at home, so that they can grow up to be great pillars for our community.

I hope this brief letter will help in getting what we need for our kids and community.

Sincerely,

Patty Allery, BA

Patty A. Allery
T. M. Tribal Youth
Coordinator/Counselor

(FROM LENNY BELGARDE)

TURTLE MT. HOME IMPROVEMENT

HIP ISSUES/CONCERNS – FY – 07

The most important issue that needs to be stressed is how much this program means to the tribes. The people that have received HIP would not have had their housing needs met by any other entity.

The Turtle Mt. Home Improvement Program receives approximately 350 applications per year, however we have only been serving 2 – 4 applicants annually. This is due to the way the funding is dispersed to the tribes. The process is set up to be fair, however it is the responsibility of the area housing officer to oversee the process, to make sure that every tribe is given a equal opportunity to receive a fair share of the funds. We feel that some tribes have been given preferential treatment which has resulted in a decreased funding level that prevents us from effectively serving our people.

Once the funding is allocated to the tribe there needs to be some flexibility on how the money can be spent. The tribes should have the authority to utilize the category A to meet some emergency needs.

(redacted)

Locally, the budget short fall is affecting the Quentin Burdick Memorial Healthcare Facility:

1. 93% of the Hospitals and Clinics 01 account goes for salaries which makes us highly dependant on third party collections for additional services;
2. For FY 2006, we are anticipating a budget shortfall of $2.8 million in CHS if we continue at our current spending rate. A closer monitoring of referrals is being done to assure that we are in compliance with the Prioritiy I criteria.
3. There will be a $200,000 budget shortfall in facilitities for FY06 because of fuel costs, OT costs for maintenance workers who provide patient transportation. This adds to the O5 deficit of $180,000 we have to address.
4. Our current costs for drugs is approximately $5 million per year and this cost is funded out of third party funds. We will be looking at substituting high costs medications for lower cost generic medications to decrease the costs of drugs.
5. A review of CHS referrals shows that our referral patterns require MRIs, orthopedics, cardiac specialists. The latest increase in methamphetamine use has a large impact in terms of costs of care for those patients that present with cardiac or stroke complications.
6. We continue to have shortages of dentists, pharmacists, physicians, radiologists and CRNAs that creates a burden on our third party budgets when we have to contract for these services.
7. Assistance is required to address the recipient liability issue whereby patients are required to pay out of pocket costs before we can bill medicaid. Patients are not able to pay their recipient liability and we are not able to bill for their care. This has resulted in a lost to our facility since the beginning of the FY of approximately 188 patients which would equate to $41,000. I am told the number is larger; however, more research will be required to determine the total impact. Mosts patients have a recipient liability of about $100 per month or less.

COUNTY OFFICERS
Valerie McCloud — County Auditor
Alison Gremier — County Treasurer
Tony Sirns — County Sheriff
Colleen Bertsch — Register of Deeds
Mary O'Donnell — State's Attorney
Susan Mickelson — Clerk of Court
Dwane Getzlaff — County Superintendent
Turtle Mountain Star — Official Newspaper

Rolette County
P.O. Box 939
Rolla, North Dakota 58367

Commissioners
Elmer Boucher — Rolette, ND
Joe Baker — Belcourt, ND
Mike Laducer — Rolla, ND
Bob Leonard, Sr. — St. John, ND
Roland Davis — Belcourt, ND

February 21, 2006

Kenneth Davis
Tribal Chairman
PO Box 900
Belcourt, ND 58316

Mr Davis:

The Rolette County Board of Commissioners reviewed a letter dated February 21, 2006 from Beverly Mathiason, Social Service Director. This letter addresses the concern regarding Bureau of Indian Affairs budget concerns.

The Rolette County Board of Commissioners concur with Mrs Mathiason's concerns. Rolette County does not have the resources to increase their budget to provide additional programs.

Thank You,

Bob Leonard, Sr.

Bob Leonard Sr.
Vice Chairman
Rolette County Board of Commissioners

Rolette County Social Service Board
PO Box 519
Rolla, North Dakota 58367
701-477-3141 Fax: 477-5979

February 21, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

As the director of Rolette County Social Services, I would like to address some concerns we have as the budget for the Bureau of Indian Affairs is discussed.

There seems to be the belief that there are available resources in the community to assist Native Americans if the BIA budget is reduced. This is a misconception that would result in grave consequences for the people of Turtle Mountain.

Rolette County is a very poor county; we have a very small amount of taxable acreage in our county, but a growing population. In fact, Rolette County Social Services has incurred a quarter of a million dollars in spending deficit just to support the programs we have today.

The county's general assistance program is totally funded by county tax dollars. We receive an appropriation of approximately $22,000 a year which is intended to cover about 6 indigent burials and very limited emergency situations, such as utility shut off's, or evictions. The Turtle Mountain Social Service office authorizes 4-5 times that number of burials. The county does not even have a general assistance program that provides a monthly maintenance payment to needy individuals.

The level of poverty in our county is tremendous and the unemployment rate is staggering. Our population continues to grow, but our ability to increase tax revenue does not.

Rolette County does not have the resources to pick up any additional costs, nor are there large numbers of charitable organizations in the county that can assist needy individuals. I ask that you consider all of these factors as you prepare budgets.

Thank you.

Beverly Mathiason

Beverly Mathiason
Director

UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE
3315 University Drive
Bismarck, North Dakota 58504
701-255-3285

Statement on the FY 2007 Bureau of Indian Affairs Budget

Submitted to the
House Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
Senate Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee

Tex Hall, UTTC Board President and Chairman, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation
David M. Gipp, President, United Tribes Technical College
February 23, 2006

For 37 years, United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) has been providing postsecondary vocational education, job training and family services to Indian students from throughout the nation. We are governed by the five tribes located wholly or in part in North Dakota. We have received funding through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) every year since our founding, and since 1976 under Public Law 93-638 (Indian Self Determination Act) contract authority.

The BIA proposal to eliminate funding for UTTTC makes no sense. The proposal is an affront to Indian youth and to Indian country generally. We are an educational institution that consistently has excellent results, placing Indian people in good jobs and reducing welfare rolls. The Bureau should be supporting us, not making proposals that would put us out of business. The elimination of BIA funding for UTTC would shut us down, as these funds constitute half of our operating budget. We do not have a tax base or state funds on which to rely.

The request of the United Tribes Technical College Board for the FY 2007 BIA budget is:

- ***$4.5 million in BIA funds for UTTC***, which is $1.05 million over the FY 2006 level.
- ***$5 million in BIA funds for phase one of student housing construction***, a need identified in the 2000 Department of Education study. We are one of the few tribal colleges which offers a dormitory system, including family housing.
- ***Requirement that the BIA place more emphasis on funding and administrative support for job training and vocational/technical education.*** The Adult Vocational Training program, funded at $15 million in FY 2005 (TPA, Self-Governance and Consolidated Tribal Programs combined) is but a shadow of its former self. The FY 1970 appropriation for this program was $60 million. There is no BIA leadership or advocacy for job training or vocational/technical education at the central or regional office levels.

UTTC Performance Indicators. UTTC has:

- An 87% retention rate
- A placement rate of 95% (job placement and going on to four-year institutions)
- A projected return on federal investment of 1 to 20 (2005 study comparing the projected earnings generated over a 28-year period of UTTC Associate of Applied Science and Bachelor degree graduates of June 2005 with the cost of educating them.)

- The highest level of accreditation. The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools has accredited UTTC again in 2001 for the longest period of time allowable – ten years or until 2011- and with no stipulations.

The demand for our services is growing and we are serving more students. For the 2005-2006 school year we enrolled 1113 students (an unduplicated count) a 20% increase over last school year. The majority of our students are from the Great Plains states, an area that, according to the 2003 BIA Labor Force Report, has an Indian reservation jobless rate of 76 percent. We are proud of our annual placement rate of 95 percent, and hope to enroll 2000 adult students by 2008.

In addition, we have served 252 students during school year 2005-2006 in our Theodore Jamerson Elementary school, and 255 children in our infant-toddler and pre-school programs.

Course Offerings. We offer 15 vocational/technical programs and award a total of 24 two-year degree and one-year certificates, including:

Licensed Practical Nursing. This is our program with the highest number of students. We have an agreement with the University of North Dakota system that allow our students to transfer their credits to these four-year nursing programs.

Medical Transcription and Coding Program. Our newest academic endeavor is our Medical Transcription and Coding Program which is offered through our Exact Med Training program.

Tribal Environmental Science. Through a National Science Foundation grant we are undertaking a 5-year project to establish a planning and implementing the program two-year Associate of Applied Science degree in Tribal Environmental Science.

Injury Prevention. Through our Injury Prevention Program we are addressing the injury death rate among Indians, which is 2.8 times that of the U.S. population. With IHS initial assistance, we now offer the only degree-granting Injury Prevention program in the nation. Injuries are the leading cause of mortality among Native people for ages 1-44 and the third for overall death rates.

Online Education. We are working to bridge the "digital divide" by providing web-based education and Interactive Video Network courses from our North Dakota campus to Indians residing at other locations and as well as to students on our campus. This Spring semester 2006, we have 79 students registered in online courses, of which 39 students are studying exclusively online (approximately 22 FTE) and 40 are campus-based students. These online students come from Colorado, Michigan, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, SD and Wisconsin.

Typically campus-based students enroll in online courses because of scheduling conflicts or because they like the flexibility offered by online courses. All totaled, 159 online course seats are filled by students this semester. Thirty one courses are currently offered online, including those in the Medical Transcription and Coding program and those offered through an MOU with Owens Valley Career Development Center.

Our newest on-line course is suicidology -- the study of suicide, its causes, and its prevention and of the behavior of those to threaten or attempt suicide -- and we expect that with additional outreach that there will be a significant demand for this course.

Online courses provide the scheduling flexibility students need, especially those students with young children. Our online education is currently provided in the areas of Early Childhood Education, Injury Prevention, Health Information Technology, Nutrition and Food Service and Elementary Education. We are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools to provide associate degrees online. This approval is required in order for us to offer federal financial aid to students enrolled in these online courses. We are the only tribal college accredited to offer associate degrees online

Computer Information and Technology. The Computer Support Technician program is at maximum student capacity because of limitations on learning resources for computer instruction. In order to keep up with student demand and the latest technology, we will need more classrooms, equipment and instructors. Our program includes all of the Microsoft Systems certifications that translate into higher income earning potential for graduates.

Nutrition and Food Services. UTTC will meet the challenge of fighting diabetes in Indian Country through education. Indians and Alaska Natives have a disproportionately high rate of type 2 diabetes, and have a diabetes mortality rate that is three times higher than the general U.S. population. The increase in diabetes among Indians and Alaska Natives is most prevalent among young adults aged 25-34, with a 135 percent increase from 1990-2003. Nearly 70 percent of Indians age 35 years or older have both diabetes and hypertension. (FY 2007 IHS Budget)

As a 1994 Tribal Land Grant institution, we offer a Nutrition and Food Services Associate of Applied Science degree in an effort to increase the number of Indians with expertise in nutrition and dietetics. Currently, there are only a handful of Indian professionals in the country with training in these areas. Among our offerings is a Nutrition and Food Services degree with a strong emphasis on diabetes education, traditional food preparation, and food safety.

We also established the United Tribes Diabetes Education Center to assist tribal communities and our students and staff in decreasing the prevalence of diabetes by providing diabetes educational programs, materials and training.

Business Management/Tribal Management. Another of our newer programs is business and tribal management designed to help tribal leaders be more effective administrators. We continue to refine our curricula for this program.

Business Management: Tourism and Hospitality Management. A recently established program is tourism and hospitality management. We developed the core curricula for the tourism program and are partnering with three other tribal colleges (Sitting Bull, Fort Berthold, and Turtle Mountain) in this offering. The development of the tribal tourism program was timed to coincide with the planned activities of the national Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, but also provides long-term opportunities for our graduates.

Job Training and Economic Development. UTTC is a designated Minority Business Development Center serving Montana, South Dakota and North Dakota. We also administer a Workforce Investment Act program and an internship program with private employers in the region.

Economic Development Administration funding was made available to open a "University Center." The Center is used to help create economic development opportunities in tribal communities. While most states have such centers, this center is the first-ever tribal center.

Upcoming Endeavors. We are seeking to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the BIA's Police Academy in New Mexico that would allow our criminal justice program to be recognized for the purpose of *BIA and Tribal police certification*, so that Tribal members from the BIA regions in the Northern Plains, Northwest, Rocky Mountain, and Midwest areas would not have to travel so far from their families to receive training. Our criminal justice program is accredited and recognized as meeting the requirements of most police departments in our region. We also anticipate providing similar training for correctional officers, a vital need in Indian country.

We are also interested in developing training programs that would assist the BIA in the area of provision of *trust services*. We have several technology disciplines and instructors that are capable of providing those kinds of services with minimum of additional training.

Facility/Housing Needs. The 1998 Vocational Education and Applied Technology Act required the Department of Education to study the facilities, housing and training needs of our institution. That report was published in November 2000 ("Assessment of Training and Housing Needs within Tribally Controlled Postsecondary Vocational Institutions, November 2000, American Institute of Research"). The report identified the need for $17 million for the renovation of existing housing and instructional buildings and $30 million for housing and instructional facilities. These figures do not take into account the costs of inflation since the study was completed in 2000.

We continue to identify housing as our greatest need. Some families must wait from 1-3 years for admittance due to lack of available housing. Since 2005 we have assisted 311 families with off campus housing, a very expensive proposition. In order to accommodate the enrollment increase, we partner with local renters and two county housing authorities (Burleigh, Morton).

UTTC has a new 86-bed single-student dormitory on campus. It is already completely full as are all of our other dormitories and student housing. To build the dormitory, we formed an alliance with the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the American Indian College Fund, the Shakopee-Mdewakanton Sioux Tribe and other entities. However, more housing must be built to accommodate those on the waiting list and to meet expected increased enrollment. We also have housing which needs renovation to meet safety codes.

UTTC has acquired an additional 132 acres of land. We have also developed a master facility plan. This plan includes the development of a new campus on which would be single-student and family housing, classrooms, recreational facilities, offices and related infrastructure. A new campus will address our need for expanded facilities to accommodate our growing student population. It will also enable us to effectively address safety code requirements, Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, and to become more efficient in facility management.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We cannot survive without the basic core vocational/technical education funds that come through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. They are essential to the operation of our campus and to the welfare of Indian people throughout the Great Plains region and beyond.

Prepared Statement of the Spirit Lake Nation
Offered by Myra Pearson, Chairwoman
Fort Totten, ND

On
The Health, Education, Housing, Transportation, and Economic Development Issues for the Spirit Lake Nation

February 23, 2006
Jack Barden Student Technology Center
United Tribes Technical College

Good afternoon Chairman McCain, Vice Chairman Dorgan, and distinguished members of the committee. Thank you for inviting the North Dakota tribal chairs to provide testimony on behalf of our respective nations. I am Myra Pearson, Chairwoman of the Spirit Lake Nation, headquartered in Fort Totten, ND. Before beginning, I would like to thank the Committee for supporting American Indian initiatives at the national and state level, and especially those projects where Spirit Lake was involved.

Our tribal government is the primary policy maker for the four tribal communities on the Spirit Lake reservation. Because of this responsibility, we have come to realize the importance of using objective data to guide our decision making in addressing the needs of our people. These needs vary by the age of our enrolled members and are influenced by our culture.

We consider our children the future for our people, respect our elders as keepers of our traditions, and value our veterans as protectors of our people; however, there are three issues that affect all groups, and these are: poor health status, access to healthcare, and lack of housing. For Spirit Lake, most transportation issues such as distance and cost fall under barriers to accessing healthcare. All of these issues are a result of poverty; thus, education and economic development are critical to addressing these needs.

Health status and access to health care are the primary concern for our tribal council as we continue to subsidize the health care of our tribal members due to inadequate Indian Health Service (I.H.S.) funding. Senator Dorgan and other

distinguished members, we are aware of your support of the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act and request that you continue your efforts to get this legislation reauthorized. Your support is necessary to assisting our federal government in fulfilling one of the most important trust responsibilities for our people.

The Aberdeen Area I.H.S. Region, of which North Dakota is a part, has the lowest life expectancy of all the I.H.S. Regions in the nation at 64.3 years of age compared to 77.6 years of age for the nation, a difference of 13.3 years. This disparity is partially a result of the rural isolation of the community, shortage of health providers, and increasing poverty levels common among our people.

According to research conducted by the University of North Dakota (UND) Center for Health Promotion and the UND Center for Rural Health (2004), Spirit Lake adults, when compared to their North Dakota counterparts ages 18 and over, were found to have poorer health status, inadequate access to healthcare, higher health risk factors, less health screenings, and lower chronic disease rates.

Highlights from the study indicated that Spirit Lake adults were:

- 31% less likely to answer very good and 12% less likely to answer excellent in regard to health status
- 44% more likely to answer poor physical or mental health interfering with daily activities for those reporting poor health

Concerning access to healthcare, Spirit Lake adults were:

- 59% less likely to have health coverage
- 52% less likely to have a personal doctor
- And, 14% less likely to see a doctor due to cost

Regarding health risk factors, our adults were:

- 78% more likely to be obese
- 48% less likely to participate in vigorous physical activity
- 100% less likely to eat 5+ vegetables or fruits a day
- 193% more likely to smoke
- 97% more likely to binge drink (5+ drinks on same occasion)
- And, 288% more likely to chronic drink (2+ drinks on daily basis)

On the subject of disease prevention and cancer health screenings, our adults were:

- 65% less likely to have pneumonia shot
- 69% less likely to have blood stool test

- And, 60% less likely to have sigmoidoscopy/colonscopy

Concerning chronic disease, Spirit Lake enrolled members were:

- 50% less likely to have arthritis
- 60% less likely to have hypertension
- 74% less likely to have high cholesterol
- 33% less likely to have had a heart attack
- And, 50% less likely to have had a stroke

Diabetes is of special concern as our people were:

- 73% more likely to have diabetes
- 14% more likely to take insulin
- 38% more likely to take oral medication
- And, 59% less likely to have a diabetes management class

The above lower chronic disease rates are a result of the youth of our population with 52% less than 34 years of age; however, when we look at data from our elder population, a number of health disparities become apparent and we began to understand why our life expectancy is the lowest in the nation.

According to data from the National Resource Center on Native American Aging (2005), Spirit Lake elders, ages 55+, when compared with their U.S. counterparts were more likely to have chronic diseases, and less access to cancer screenings and adequate healthcare.

Regarding chronic disease, Spirit Lake elders were:

- 44% more likely to have arthritis
- 90% more likely to have congestive heart failure
- 26% more likely to have experienced a stroke
- 206% more likely to have diabetes
- 375% more likely to have colon/rectal cancer

Concerning cancer screenings, our elders were:

- 22% less likely to have had a blood stool test
- 46% less likely to have had a PSA test (blood test used for detecting prostate cancer among men)

In relation to health care access, Spirit Lake elders were:

- 4% less likely to have health care coverage

- 74% less likely to have a personal doctor
- 700% more likely to experience transportation as a barrier to healthcare

On the subject of health risk factors:

- 40% more likely to smoke
- 62% less likely to have drank alcohol in the last 30 days
- 81% less likely to have drank alcohol in the last 3 years
- 137% more likely to be obese

The lack of screenings and health promotion activities among our young and elder population are of special concern for our Tribal Council as we see a significant change in health once our population reaches elder status at age 55. We believe the lack of disease prevention, health screenings, chronic disease management, and health promotion efforts seen among our younger tribal members eventually results in increased health disparities among our elders.

Another primary issue to our council that is also a federal trust issue is the education of our young people. Results from the previously cited report indicated that Spirit Lake adults were less likely to have achieved higher levels of education when compared with their North Dakota counterparts.

Education results indicated Spirit Lake members were:

- 215% more likely to have not obtained a high school diploma
- 29% less likely to have some college
- 71% less likely to be a college graduate

These results mirror national statistics provided in recent Senate Committee on Indian Affairs testimony on February 16, 2006 by Ryan Wilson, President, National Indian Education Association (NIEA). Increased funding initiatives to raise the educational status for our people are imperative. Our children continue to test below their North Dakota counterparts, and increased funding is needed to provide a firm educational foundation for our children. Tribal college students are funded at ½ of what non-tribal community college students receive at $4,447 per full time student, 75% of what is authorized. Regardless of the age of our student population, we request your support for the NIEA initiatives proposed in last week's testimony.

The correlation between health status, education levels, and socio-economic status is well documented. Thus, the issue of education is critical to raising the health

status and overall income for our people. By raising education levels, we not only increase earning capacity and one's ability to access health insurance and healthcare, but we also increase the amount of taxes paid into our federal government.
A housing shortage at Spirit Lake is denoted by the 233 families currently on our housing waiting list. In most cases, overcrowding is occurring with multiple families residing in homes built for single families. Recent flooding on our reservation and the resulting high water table has also caused mold problems that have raised additional health concerns regarding asthma and other respiratory diseases. Lastly, substandard housing weatherization has resulted in increased heating bills costs that are severely affecting our tribal member's ability to make ends meet.

Economic development is crucial to addressing the overall needs of our community. Although, we have a number of companies currently yielding a profit such as the Sioux Manufacturing Corporation and the Spirit Lake Casino and Resort, they are not meeting the employment needs of our people. When compared with the North Dakota population, our people were 460% more likely to be unemployed; thus, we are in dire need of additional economic development opportunities. These activities are also related back to the need for education to strengthen our foundation of trained and educated enrolled members.

Summarily, all of the above mentioned issues are critical and of priority to the Spirit Lake Nation. We recognize the importance of applied research in developing plans of action; however, we also recognize our culture and community expertise must be implemented if these efforts are to be successful. We are open to working with your Committee to move forward in the effort of addressing the disparities being experienced across Indian Country. Furthermore, we applaud your efforts to reach out to the North Dakota tribes to get a better picture of our needs.

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